



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

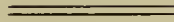
AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1914.



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WITH

TABLES OF MORTALITY

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

Members of the Public Health Committee of the Borough of Bedford.

CHAIRMAN :

ALDERMAN H. BURRIDGE, J.P., *Cauldwell House.*

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

COUNCILLOR F. R. HOCKLIFFE, 64, *Goldington Avenue.*

THE MAYOR (Alderman H. Browning), 36, *The Embankment.*

ALDERMEN :

H. C. DUNHAM, 58, *Midland Road.*

H. W. LONGHURST, *Midland Road.*

W. H. ALLPORT, 1, *Lansdowne Road.*

COUNCILLORS :

F. T. FARRER, 13, *Ford End Road.*

T. LEE ROBERTS, J.P., 4, *Rothsay Gardens.*

J. H. TWAMLEY, 7, *Shakespeare Road.*

H. C. WILLIAMS, J.P., 16, *St. George's Road.*

R. H. C. RITSON, *St. Paul's Square.*

J. W. SEAMARK, 59, *Tavistock Street.*

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS, M.D., D.P.H., *Medical Officer of Health.*

A. W. MERRIE, *Sanitary Inspector.*

E. T. FELL, *Meat Inspector, and Inspector Food and Drugs Act.*

F. C. HAYNES, *Assistant Sanitary Inspector.*

MISS M. HOWARD-JONES, *Borough Nurse.*

MISS M. G. WILLIAMS, *Matron, Isolation Hospital.*

To the Bedford Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg respectfully to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1914, on the Public Health of the Borough of Bedford.

On March 25th, 1914, I undertook, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, the duties of full time Medical Officer of Health, to which office you did me the honour to appoint me at the beginning of the year.

The period under review will always be memorable for the outbreak of the great European War, and Bedford, in common with the rest of the country, has been deeply affected by it. Happily the fears at first entertained as to intense local distress owing to local war conditions have proved to be ill-founded, and there was no lack of work during the winter. This was largely owing to the fact that within a fortnight of the declaration of war Bedford became the Headquarters of the Highland Division of the Territorial Army. The first troops began to arrive on Sunday, August 16th, and by Tuesday, August 18th, there were in the town upwards of 17,000 men and 4,000 horses. Barely a week's notice had been given of their arrival, so that no provision had been made for their needs. The men were distributed in billets in various parts of the town, partly in inhabited houses, partly in unoccupied houses; the latter soon coming to be known familiarly as "empty houses." Immediately on mobilization the Goldington Road Schools had been taken over by the East Anglian Engineers, but were vacated in the course of four or five days. On the arrival of the Highland Division, these Schools, as also the other elementary schools in the town, were occupied; further, the Grammar School premises and the Girls' High School were taken over by the Military.

The sights thus presented served to bring home forcibly to the minds of the people of this town that the country was at war. Before the opening of the School term, however, arrangements were made whereby all the Schools were evacuated, and the buildings thoroughly cleansed and rendered fit for school use.

The provision of adequate sanitary accommodation for so many thousands of men presented a problem which brooked of no delay. The accommodation in the "empty houses" was entirely inadequate, as many of them contained from fifty to a hundred men. On August 17th, Lieut.-Col. Dewar, the Principal Sanitary Officer of the Highland Division, and Lieut. Barron, R.E.,

had an interview with Mr. Castle, the Assistant Surveyor (the Borough Surveyor being away on holiday leave), and myself, and it was agreed that the proper course was to connect the permanent latrines which would have to be erected with the town drainage: a rough calculation was made that it would be necessary to provide 50 stations with 10 places each, at a cost of something like 30/- per place.* Mr. Castle at once produced a plan for trough latrines, which could be readily erected. The channelling consisted of the halves of 12" drain pipes split longitudinally, and imbedded in cement; the walls of the troughs to be brick rendered internally in cement; the trough discharging through a trap into a connection with the nearest sewer. The screening walls were to be made by posts driven into the ground with sheets of corrugated iron nailed to them. On Wednesday, August 19th, a meeting was held in the Town Clerk's Office, at which were present the Mayor, the Town Clerk, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, the Assistant Surveyor, and the Medical Officer of Health, to meet Col. Sloggett, R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Col. Dewar, R.A.M.C. (T.), and Lieut. Barron, R.E. Col. Sloggett requested that the Town Clerk should write to the General-in-Command a letter expressing the readiness of the Town to construct latrines at once on the understanding that the War Office would ultimately repay the cost.

The construction of latrines on the plan proposed was at once taken in hand, one or two being erected within 36 hours by the Surveyor's department, and the rest very promptly by contract.

Arrangements were at the same time made for the flushing of the latrines by the sewer men from the Surveyor's department; this being done in all cases once, and in many, twice daily; a deodorant disinfectant being added after flushing. By these means the latrines have been kept in a perfectly cleanly and inoffensive condition, and have given rise to no serious nuisance or complaint. It is most satisfactory to be able to state that though the population of the town was increased nearly 50%, not a single case of enteric fever has occurred in the town since the arrival of the troops.

On August 27th, Dr. Compton, an Inspector of the Local Government Board, visited the town to enquire as to what sanitary provisions for the troops had been made, and to advise thereon; it was a source of satisfaction to be able to show him that, as far as Bedford was concerned, the problem had been completely solved.

Dr. Shipley, Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, has recently published an excellent and entertaining little book under the title of the "Minor Horrors of War." With some of these horrors we have had a good deal to do in Bedford. It was, very shortly after their arrival, discovered that a large proportion of men in some regiments were verminous, and large quantities of infected clothing and bedding were sent daily for disinfection by steam at the Corporation Disinfecting Station. As a plentiful supply of steam was available, an old bath was purchased and fitted up in the disinfecting chamber, so as to enable men to have a hot disinfecting bath whilst their clothing was being disinfected. It soon, however, became apparent that this

* In all 61 latrines have been provided.

modest provision was not enough, and as the result of a conference between the Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and the officials concerned, a shed was erected at the side of the disinfecting chamber, and 5 baths installed, thus enabling 10 men to bath at once. For a time a temporary dressing shelter for the men was provided by means of a tent, but as the weather got colder it was found necessary to erect a wooden shed, communicating directly with the bath room and warmed by steam.

On the arrival of the troops increased attention was paid to the sanitary condition of the inhabited houses in which men were billeted, and notices were posted on August 15th asking the owners or occupiers of houses in which troops were quartered to communicate at once with the Sanitary Authority in the case of any defect or deficiency being discovered. So far as houses in which men were billeted upon the occupiers little trouble arose; but in the case of "empty houses" matters were not so satisfactory. Some little doubt having arisen as to the respective duties of the Military and Civil Authorities, a general order was issued directing the troops to give facilities to the Sanitary Authorities in carrying out the necessary inspections. But beyond the inspection of the drainage the civilian officials had naturally no powers, and were in no way responsible for the condition otherwise of the "empty houses," this being a matter entirely for the Military Authorities. A large proportion of the troops came from the Highlands and Islands of the North of Scotland, districts in which sanitation as it is understood in the South is entirely unknown. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that some difficulties should have arisen among so large a number of men placed in novel surroundings, and under Active Service conditions. The relations between the Military Authorities and the Civilian were, I am glad to say, of the most pleasant and amicable nature throughout, and I particularly wish to place on record my appreciation of the unfailing kindness and courtesy of Lieut.-Col. Dewar, the Principal Sanitary Officer of the Highland Division (T.), who, throughout the stay of the Division rendered the most willing and invaluable assistance to the Civilian Authorities in everything relating to the health of the town and the troops.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

As in previous years, I have incorporated herein portions of earlier reports relating to the general conditions of the Borough, not for the use of your Authority, to whom, of course, the facts are well known, but in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, and for the benefit of any persons living elsewhere who may desire to obtain information as to the advantages of Bedford as a place of residence, or for other purposes.

The Borough of Bedford lies on the River Ouse, which runs from west to east through the town, the larger portion of which is situated on the northern bank. From the river the ground rises very gently towards the low range of hills which form the northern boundary of the valley, and at this point are closely approached by the river. To

the south of the river extends the plain of the valley. In times of heavy rain the Ouse is subject to floods, which, in exceptional cases, extend to some portions of the town situated close to the river. This inconvenience has been greatly lessened by the construction of a new overflow below the Old Bridge. The normal level of the river at this point is 82·6 feet above Ordnance datum; the level during the flood of April 30th, 1908, was 87·79 above Ordnance datum. The higher part of the town attains to 124 feet above O.D. Geologically speaking, the town is built over gravel near the river, and on clay in its upper portions. The clay is Oxford Clay. In some places the Kellaways sand lies beneath the surface soil. In dry seasons inconvenience is sometimes caused by fissures in the clay, causing damage to the foundations of houses.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

As a county town with a weekly market, in the centre of an agricultural district, Bedford is naturally the scene of many varied occupations connected with the land, but it may be broadly classed as a residential town, mainly devoted to education. This is due to the existence of the Harper Charity, bequeathed to his native town by Sir William Harper, a Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Elizabeth. The Harper Estates, chiefly situated in Holborn, were in 1873 placed under the care of Trustees, and the revenues are now mainly devoted to the upkeep of the various Harper Schools. These comprise a Grammar School for Boys, numbering 800; a High School for Girls, with 600 pupils; a Modern School for Boys (500); and a Modern School for Girls (300).

The Harper Elementary Schools for Boys, Girls, and Infants are also in large part maintained from the funds of the Endowment.

Till the year 1897, the whole of the Elementary Education was provided by the Harper Trust, but the growth of the town necessitated the formation in that year of a School Board, now superseded.

The great expansion of the town in the last thirty years is in the main attributable to the remodelling of the Harper Charity; the throwing open of the Schools having attracted large numbers of new settlers, who came for the sake of the educational advantages.

Though not a manufacturing town, Bedford yet possesses several factories (two or three being of considerable size), for the manufacture of agricultural implements, of electrical engineering plant, cranes, artistic woodwork, etc., which give employment to upwards of 1,500 to 1,800 men. There is also a large chocolate manufactory, erected quite recently by Messrs. Peek, Frean and Co., which is situated on the Elstow Road, in a growing neighbourhood. The fact that the town lies on the main line of the Midland Railway, and is also served by a branch of the London and North-Western Railway system, together with the fact that suitable land for manufacturing purposes lies close to these lines, makes the town a suitable centre for the establishment of engineering and other works, which need not interfere with the amenities of the residential quarter at its opposite extremity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the town on June 30th, 1914, was 40,596. This figure is arrived at on the supposition that the population is increasing in the same ratio as that deduced from the increase during the preceding decennial census period, that is, between the years 1901 and 1910.

The Collector of Rates (Mr. C. E. Craddock) has again kindly supplied me with an independent estimate, based on the number of inhabited houses, and the average number of inhabitants per house.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

(Estimate of Population on June 30th, 1914.)

Estimated No. of Houses in Borough, 30th June, 1914 ...	9,455
Estimated net increase in No. of Houses during year ending 30th June, 1914	47
Estimated No. of Houses, 30th June, 1914	9,502
No. of Empty Houses (extracted from Rate Books and checked by Police Returns)	306
Estimated No. of Occupied Houses	9,196
Average Occupiers per house (Census 1911)	4 $\frac{2}{3}$
Estimated Population, 30th June, 1914	40,462

There is a very close agreement between this estimate based on the number of occupied houses, and that calculated by the usual formula, viz., 40,596. The results show that at present the rate of increase in the population of the Borough is very slow, and that the rapid expansion of the town has ceased, at any rate, for the present.

Unfortunately, there were no means of ascertaining with accuracy the entire number of inhabitants in the town during the past autumn and winter; it is certain that the number was very considerable, as a large number of the relatives and friends of the troops came to Bedford for longer or shorter periods, and there was a great run upon the lodging accommodation of the town. Taking the number of the troops roughly as 17,000, it is probable that at times the total stranger population amounted nearly, if not quite, to 20,000; in other words, the population of the borough was increased 50 per cent.

The nett death rate for the estimated population of 40,596 was 11·31. 11·26

This when multiplied by the "Correction Factor," 1·0052 supplied by the Registrar-General, gives a corrected Death Rate of 11·37 per 1,000 living.

This is considerably higher than the rate for the preceding year, which was 9·96.

A glance at the appended table will show that the mortality from diseases of the respiratory organs was much higher in 1914 than in 1913; this was especially the case with Bronchitis, the fatality of which was exactly double. The deaths from Pneumonia

were 50% in excess of those in 1913; and the same was the case with the deaths elassed under the heading, "Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs." There were seven deaths from Measles as against none the year before. In these figures deaths among the troops are not included. There were 46 deaths from Cancer, as against 56 in 1913, and 21 from various forms of kidney disease, as against 14 in the preceeding year. The deaths from Phthisis were 31 in 1914, as against 27 in 1913.

The following Table shows the number of deaths of "Residents," in the years 1913 and 1914, under the respective headings.

DISEASE.	1913.	1914.
Enteric Fever	3	1
Small-pox ... ..	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	7
Scarlet Fever	4	1
Whooping Cough	1	1
Diphtheria and Croup	8	9
Influenza	4	8
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	27	31
Tuberculous Meningitis	3	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	3
Cancer, malignant Disease	56	46
Rheumatic Fever	1	..
Meningitis	1	2
Organic Heart Disease	41	43
Bronchitis	21	43
Pneumonia (all forms)	15	22
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	6	9
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	7	6
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	3	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	4
Alcoholism	1	3
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	14	21
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature birth	22	26
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	10	10
Suicide	1	8
Other Defined Diseases	136	143
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	4	7
Totals	398	459

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS REGISTERED MONTHLY.

Month.	Bedford and Cardington District.		Bedford and Kempston District.		Total.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Both Sexes.
January ..	10	8	8	13	18	21	39
February ..	12	10	7	14	19	24	43
March ..	10	8	11	9	21	17	38
April ..	14	5	12	14	26	19	45
May ..	7	3	11	6	18	9	27
June ..	8	10	4	6	12	16	28
July ..	11	7	7	10	18	17	35
August ..	12	7	4	13	16	20	36
September ..	17	7	6	13	23	20	43
October ..	10	14	13	13	23	27	50
November ..	12	9	6	11	18	20	38
December ..	23	9	30	13	53	22	75

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 38, the lowest number on record since 1892; the next lowest being that for 1910, viz., 54; whilst the highest was in 1899, when it was 111. The satisfaction to be derived from these figures is, however, considerably diminished when we turn to those for the birth rate: For 1914, this was the lowest on record, being only 16·08, as compared with 22·3 for the year 1892. For the 5-year period, 1909-1913, the average birth rate was 16·79, whilst that for the decennium 1892-1901 was 21·8.

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1914 AS RETURNED BY THE LOCAL REGISTRARS.

Month.	BEDFORD AND CARDINGTON.				BEDFORD AND KEMPSTON.			
	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
January ..	20	17	2	1	9	10	—	2
February ..	14	11	2	1	7	8	—	—
March ..	12	10	2	—	11	10	2	1
April ..	19	15	1	1	16	14	2	—
May ..	10	14	2	—	10	16	—	1
June ..	10	19	1	—	9	17	—	2
July ..	22	26	—	2	16	13	2	—
August ..	4	15	—	1	13	16	1	2
September ..	14	13	—	—	7	9	1	1
October ..	17	18	1	—	15	14	1	—
November ..	5	11	3	—	7	11	—	1
December ..	17	7	—	—	3	8	1	1
Totals ..	164	176	14	6	123	146	10	11

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	287	322
Illegitimate	24	17
	311	339

650

Corrected by the Returns of the Registrar-General :

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	288	323
Illegitimate	24	18
	312	341

653

POOR LAW RELIEF.

Mr. W. Payne, Clerk to the Board of Guardians, kindly informs me, in reply to enquiry, that the outdoor relief in the Borough Parishes for the year ended Michaelmas, 1914, was £2,133, as against £2,933 in 1913. To this must be added the cost of the indoor inmates of the Workhouse who belong to Bedford.

HOSPITAL.

The number of patients treated during the year 1914 at the Bedford County Hospital was as follows:—

In-patients—Medical	...	...	...	154	
„ Surgical	...	...	...	739	
„ Ophthalmic	...	...	...	58	
				—	951
Out-patients—Medical	...	...	...	961	
„ Surgical	...	...	...	1084	
„ Ophthalmic	...	...	...	585	
„ Dental	...	...	...	130	
				—	2760
Old Out-patient Attendances	...	...	...	2341	
New Casualties—Medical	...	...	...	9	
„ Surgical	...	...	...	711	
„ Ophthalmic	...	...	...	169	
				—	889
Old Casualty Attendances	...	...	...	5768	
				—	
Total Attendances	...	...	...	11,758	

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The house accommodation is determined naturally—at least for the new portion—by the circumstances of the town. The greater part of the houses in the borough have been built within the last thirty or forty years, as is shown by the accompanying map, in which the central area—coloured blue—represents the extent of the town about the year 1870.

The houses in the older part of the town vary in character, according to the date of building, and many possess gardens of considerable size. Even in the case of cottage property there is, as a rule, a sufficiency of open space about the houses; on the other hand, some of the business premises in the main streets are unduly cramped for room.

In the newer parts of the town the streets are straight and wide, and many of them have been planted with trees, which add greatly to their appearance. The more highly-rated houses are mainly of the villa, or semi-detached villa type. They are well-planned and modern in character. Besides these, there are a great many streets consisting of houses suitable for families of moderate means. They generally consist of a ground floor and upper storey, and have no basements. Except in the central part of the town there are no houses with basements.

The accommodation for the working classes is good; the houses contain, as a rule, a front parlour, a “living room,” furnished with a kitchen range, a wash-house, and outside offices; and upstairs, two, or generally three, bedrooms. Passages run at intervals between the houses to give access to the backyards; the space behind the houses is wide, and the drains are so laid that they run to the back, and are taken out to the street beneath the side passages. In all streets built within the last 13 years inspection chambers have been systematically introduced at all points where a change in the direction of the drains occurs. In the newer streets there is an increasing tendency to provide the better houses of this class with bathrooms. On the whole, the premises are kept by the tenants in a very satisfactory state as regards cleanliness. The practice of keeping fowls in the backyards is discouraged by the Sanitary Authority, as far as possible. All plans for new buildings are supervised by the Surveyor, and submitted for approval to the Streets and Buildings Committee before finally receiving the sanction of the Council. Strict watch is kept over the laying of all new drains by a special officer of the Surveyor’s department.

It is in suitable housing accommodation for the labouring and poorest classes that the town is deficient. During the past few years many houses inhabited by persons of this class have been demolished, thereby still further decreasing the accommodation.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Systematic inspection has been continued by Mr. Merrie throughout the year, in accordance with the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations of September 2nd, 1910.

The records are kept in books specially printed and tabulated to afford full information in accordance with Article III. as to:—

1. The situation of the dwelling house and its name and numbers; date of inspection, previous inspection, etc., and the state of the house in regard to the matters specified in Article II., viz.:—

(1) The arrangements for preventing the contamination of the water supply.

(2) Closet accommodation.

(3) Drainage.

(4) The condition of the dwelling house in regard to light, the free circulation of air, dampness, and cleanliness.

(5) The paving, drainage, and sanitary condition of any yard or outhouse belonging to or occupied with the dwelling house.

(6) The arrangements for the deposit of refuse and ashes.

(7) The existence of any room which would, in pursuance of Sub-section (7) of Section 17 of the Act of 1909, be a dwelling house, so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

(8) Any defects in other matters which may tend to render the dwelling house dangerous or injurious to the health of an inhabitant.

As I have pointed out in previous Reports there are no "slum districts" in Bedford, but only comparatively small groups of old and insanitary houses. These have been, and are, occupied by the poorest classes, and their demolition has not been accompanied by the erection of other houses to be let at similar rents. There is, in fact, ample provision of good houses for the artizan class, but a dearth of suitable accommodation for the labouring class.

NUMBER OF HOUSES CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED DURING 1914.

Locality.	No. Closed.	No. Demolished.	No. of Inmates.	Weekly Rent.
Newnham Street....	4	4	7	2/6, 3/6
Totals	4	4	7	..

No. of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of Sect. 17 of the Act of 1909	...	...	...	...	11
No. of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of Sect. 15 of the Act of 1909	...	...	...	...	230
No. of dwelling houses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	11
No. of representations made to the Local Authority, with a view to the making of closing orders	...	...	...	...	0
No. of closing orders made (voluntarily)	...	...	...	...	0
No. of dwelling houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of a closing order	...	...	...	...	180
No. of repairs still in progress under Sect. 15...	...	...	...	...	50
No. of repairs still in progress under Sect. 17...	...	...	...	...	0

No. of repairs still in progress under Sect. 18...	...	...	0
No. of dwelling houses which, after making of closing orders, were put into a fit state of human habitation, and the order determined by the Local Authority	...	...	11
No. of houses demolished during the year under previous orders	...	...	20
No. in progress of being demolished	...	...	0

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST.

Eleven houses were closed during the year, under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, and subsequently put by the owners in a fit state of repair.

As noted in previous years, the chief defects found in houses repaired during the year, 180 in number, were damp walls, due to want of damp courses, and ventilating apertures, and to defective spouting and roofs; uneven and ill-paved yards; absence of separate or adequate water supply; defective drainage; excessive uncleanness; want of proper storage cupboards for food; defective fire places; windows not made to open; broken floors, etc.

There are 50 houses still in process of repair.

16 Closing Orders made under Sect. 17 in 1913, with respect to houses 25, 27, 29, Newnham Street, and Nos. 1 to 13, Hand Court, were determined by the demolition of the houses during 1914.

Notices were served under Sect. 15 in 1913 with respect to Nos. 24, 26, 32, 34, Newnham Street. In 1914 the owner declared his intention to close these houses under Sect. 15 Sub-sect. 4, and they have been demolished.

The demolition of 3 houses in Gravel Lane was carried out by the Local Authority at a cost of £15, and this sum was recovered from the owner of the property.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

I have, from time to time, made systematic "house-to-house" inspections, with the Inspector.

660 premises were inspected, and 34 houses were certified for internal cleansing.

20 houses were found overcrowded.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

For the details of the work of inspection carried out under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909, see the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SANITARY DUSTBINS.

During the year the provision by house owners of proper metal dustbins with covers progressed steadily under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875. 1,036 notices were issued, and all were complied with during the year or soon after, no legal proceedings having been required to enforce compliance.

Some difficulty has been experienced as to the character of the refuse put out sometimes by householders for removal, a good deal of which might be burnt on the premises in the kitchen range.

Further difficulties have arisen owing to shortage of labour caused by the war.

PAVING OF YARDS.

165 yards have been paved during the year, with hard paving bricks, concrete, or asphalt, according to circumstances. This is certainly one of the greatest improvements that can be carried out, especially in the smaller houses.

SINKS AND WATER SUPPLY.

The work of providing separate sinks and water supply in each cottage inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act has been steadily carried on. During the year 47 houses were supplied with sinks and waste pipes discharging on to a channel leading to a trapped gully outside the house. In 41 instances a separate water supply was provided.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The town is essentially a water-closet town; the number of houses in the Borough, in the middle of 1914 was, as nearly as can be ascertained, 9,502, and of these less than 20 are provided with closets other than water closets.

The Inspector reports that at the end of 1914 there were in use 4 pail closets, 14 earth closets, 5 cesspools, 3 middens, and 1 septic tank. These are all attached to houses situated in open ground on the outskirts of the borough. The three middens are situated on the property of one of the railways.

Several ventilating shafts to the sewers in the outer parts of the town were erected during the year.

The erection of these shafts is very important for the due ventilation of dead ends of sewers. Many complaints were received of evil smells in certain outlying districts, especially in the new parts of the town where, unless sufficient escape is provided by shafts, the gases find their way out of the street manholes.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of Bedford is derived from the Oolite rock. The Waterworks are situated at the extreme N.W. boundary of the Borough, between the Clapham Road and the Ouse. The Works comprise the Old Pumping Station and the Old and Branch Headings; the New Pumping Station and "No. 2 Well," which are situated about 125 yards due south of the Old Pumping Station; and the Filtering Beds and Reservoirs, which are situated on the top of the hill on the opposite side of the Clapham Road. The lift is about 180 feet. The filtering apparatus at the top of the hill comprises a battery of 8 "pressure filters," two circular "sprinkler filters," and the three original rectangular filters; a Storage Reservoir and a Service Reservoir. The new works on the hill, sanctioned by the Local Government Board, were opened in December, 1912, by the Mayor and the Chairman of the Waterworks Committee. They comprise a new Service Reservoir, built of concrete, and having a capacity of about 540,000 gallons; and two Sprinkler Filters of 93

feet diameter. These have each six revolving sprinkling arms, pierced with holes for the distribution of the water over the beds, which are suspended from a central pillar carried on a floating drum. Connected with these filters are two automatic syphons, arranged to periodically set the arms in motion and to bring them to rest. The filtering material consists of sand supported on gravel. The total quantity of water pumped to the Reservoirs during the week average from 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 gallons.

The quality of the water supplied has been very satisfactory; full particulars are given at the end of this Report. The supply is constant.

The Borough Surveyor (Mr. N. Greenshields) has kindly supplied the subjoined tables of the Rainfall.

Rainfall recorded in the 8" Gauge at the Bedford Park for the years ending 31st December, 1913 and 1914.

1913.

RAINFALL.

1914.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with 'or or unrecorded	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with 'or or unrecorded
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.		Inches.	Inches.	Date.	
JAN.	2'34	0'71	12	17	0'73	0'26	10	11
FEB.	0'63	0'19	10	23	0'90	0'24	22	12
MAR.	2'18	0'51	17	15	2'83	0'35	8	18
APRIL	2'19	0'55	30	16	0'38	0'11	5 and 6	9
MAY	1'40	0'60	4	23	0'59	0'15	29	10
JUNE	0'75	0'34	18	25	2'15	0'90	10	7
JULY	1'03	0'24	11	21	1'39	0'44	6	14
AUG.	0'23	0'08	23	26	1'09	0'40	5	14
SEPT.	2'06	0'50	1	23	0'97	0'45	13	9
OCT.	2'85	0'68	8	19	3'05	1'36	15	12
NOV.	1'50	0'37	11	19	1'81	0'34	5	16
DEC.	0'92	0'27	5	20	4'03	1'07	29	26
TOTAL	18'08	—	—	249	19'92	—	—	158

SEWAGE.

The completion of the New Sewage Works has been seriously retarded by shortage of labour and other troubles arising from the War, and the increased flow of sewage due to our augmented population has thrown a heavy strain upon the old Sewage Farm, which was increased by the fact that the winter was abnormally wet. The Farm is situated to the East of the town, and comprises 248 acres. The system is that of broad irrigation, and has been in operation since the year 1868. The effluent is discharged into a channel known as the New Cut, which runs into the river near Newnham.

I incorporate the Report furnished by the Engineers (Messrs. Tulloch and Haworth), on the progress made in the New Sewage Works during the year 1914:—

SEWERAGE SCHEME WORKS.

VICTORIA MANSIONS,

28, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER,

LONDON, S.W.

March 27th, 1915.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sewerage Committee,
Bedford Town Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

As the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. F. B. Willmer Phillips) has again requested us to report upon the progress of the works in connection with the Sewerage Scheme during the year 1914, and which report he usually incorporates with his Annual Report on the Health of the town, we have pleasure in acceding to his request, and beg to report to you as follows:—

As the whole of the works comprised in Contracts 1, 2 and 3 (for Sewers in London and Elstow Road Districts), construction of Approach Road to the New Sewage Works, and construction of Steel and Timber Bridges over the River Ouse and Tailrace respectively) were completed during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1913, it is unnecessary for us to refer to them further in this Report.

CONTRACT NO. 4.

This Contract comprised the laying of the principal sewers embraced in the Main Drainage Scheme. The work was commenced in July, 1912, and progressed steadily on the whole, although considerable difficulties were experienced in the construction owing to the great quantity of solid rock met with in the excavations, the presence of so much water in the subsoil, and to floods.

No less than five separate pumping stations were established on the routes of the larger sewers in order to cope with the two latter conditions, and in some instances continuous pumping day and night for lengthened periods had to be resorted to in order to keep the trenches clear of the subsoil and flood waters.

However, we are glad to say that the Contractors (Messrs. W. Moss & Sons, Ltd.) overcame all these difficulties successfully, and in June, 1914, had practically completed all the sewers included in their Contract, with one or two slight exceptions. The old 15-inch diameter Sewer in Cardington Road, which was found to be most defective, was also taken up, and entirely replaced by new stoneware pipes. The connections of the existing main sewers of the town to the New Sewers have still to be made, but, of course, until the New Pumping Stations and Sewage Purification Works at Summer-

house Hill arc completed, this work cannot be carried out. There also remains a short length of 9-inch pipe sewer to be laid in Bedesman's Lane, but here again this work must remain in abeyance until a connection can be made to the New Sewer in Cardington Road, as the latter gravitates to the New Pumping Station.

It may be of interest if we give some details of the works as already completed.

The total length of the New Main Sewers is nearly 3,000 yards, their diameters varying from 5 feet to 2 feet.

For dealing with the subsoil waters in the trenches and tunnels, 4,000 yards of 15, 12 and 9-inch stoneware pipes were laid under the main sewers, and over 4,000 yards of 3-inch pipes were inserted up the sides of them.

Forty Manholes, averaging 20 feet in depth, were constructed on the route of the sewers.

The quantity of solid rock excavated was over 150,000 cube feet.

Nearly 10,000 cubic yards of Concrete and Brickwork were used in constructing the sewers, and, of the gravel and sand required for the concrete work, 5-6ths of the total quantity was obtained from the trenches alone, it having proved to be of most excellent quality for the purpose. 120 tons of 4-foot diameter Cast Iron Pipes were used for crossing under the Upper and Lower Reaches of the River Ouse.

One gratifying feature of the work has been that, notwithstanding the difficulties encountered, especially in the River crossings, rock excavation, etc., no serious accident occurred to anyone.

CONTRACT NO. 5.

This Contract comprises the construction of the Sewage Purification Works at Summerhouse Hill, and the laying of the 39-inch diameter Rising Main from the New Pumping Station adjoining the Refuse Destructor Works to them.

The works were commenced by the Contractors (Messrs. George Bell & Sons, Ltd.) in the early part of 1913, and very fair progress was made with them during that year, and so also during the period now under review until the month of August, since when, owing to the War and the consequent dislocation of traffic facilities, the scarcity of labour, and the difficulty of obtaining materials, the construction of the works has been considerably interfered with.

During the last four months of the year but slow progress was made. Nevertheless we are able to report to you that all the 11 Tanks and 26 Bacteria Beds were completed, and Clinker deposited in 15 of the latter.

The Effluent and Faced Channels, Dosing Tanks, etc., are now in process of construction.

The Rising Main and Water Main are all but finished, there being only one short length to lay under the London and North-Western Railway near the New Cut, and this will be undertaken shortly.

During the year the work of laying the 39-inch syphon pipes under the New Cut was successfully and expeditiously carried out.

The following are some of the quantities of work done by the Contractors since the commencement of the works:—

50,000 cube yards Excavation.

32,000 " " Filling.

15,000 " " Concrete.

7,500 " " Clinker deposited in Beds.

34,000 sup. yards Cement rendering.

1,000 tons of 39-inch and 3-inch pipes laid for Rising and Water Mains.

650 tons of 30 to 3 inch pipes on Sewage Works.

200 Sluice Valves and Penstocks fixed.

60 tons Steel Bars used for Reinforcement of Concrete.

9,000 sup. yards of Floor Tiles laid in Filters.

4,000 lineal yards of Stoneware pipes laid.

The value of the work executed on the Contract during the year was approximately £20,000, as against £23,000 in the ten months' period of 1913.

CONTRACT NO. 6.

This Contract embraces the provision and erection of four sets of Steam Engines and Centrifugal Pumps for pumping the Sewage from the New Pumping Station near the Refuse Destructor to Summerhouse Hill. The Contract was let to Messrs. Tangyes, Ltd., of Birmingham, in June, and they have now all the Engines and Pumps ready for delivery and fixing as soon as the Engine House, which is now in course of construction, is completed.

CONTRACT NO. 7.

This Contract embraces the provision and erection of four sets of Electrically driven Pumps for dealing with the Excess Storm Waters at the New Pumping Station near the Destructor Works. The Contract was let to Messrs. Gwynnes, Ltd., of Hammersmith, and they have now practically all the plant ready for installation as soon as the buildings are completed, which will be in about a month's time.

CONTRACT NO. 8.

This Contract comprises the erection of the Two Pumping Stations to contain the Plant mentioned in Contracts Nos. 6 and 7, and the construction of a Screening Chamber.

The Contract was let to Messrs. W. Moss & Sons, Ltd., and they commenced work in June last, since which time good progress was made until the month of August, when, for the same reasons mentioned in Contract No. 5, work was seriously delayed for the remainder of the year. Considering the somewhat difficult nature of the work, and the great depth below the surface at which much of it had to be done, with all the attendant risks and obstacles of subsoil water and solid rock to contend with, the Contractors, in our opinion, have done extremely well to keep the works going constantly, especially during the latter period of the year, with such a limited number of workmen available. The value of the works done from the commencement to the end of December, viz., £6,200, is a fair indication that under more normal conditions far more rapid

progress would have been made. The work done so far has involved 10,000 cube yards Excavation, 65,000 cube feet solid rock blasting, 2,400 cube yards Concrete laid in position, and 100 tons of cast iron pipes used.

When it is considered that works to the value of £32,000 have been completed on all the Contracts enumerated in this Report during the year 1914, and bearing in mind the circumstances under which it has been done for a third of that period for reasons already alluded to, we trust that the Town Council will see some cause for gratification, and feel that the Sewage Scheme has, during the past year, made a big advance towards completion.

Under favourable circumstances we hope that, by the month of September next, some portions, if not all, of the Scheme, may be brought into actual and effectual operation.

We are,

Yours obediently,

MAJOR TULLOCH & HAWORTH,

Engineers.

REFUSE DESTROYER.

The Refuse Destructor is situated a little way beyond the Eastern boundary of the Borough, in Barker's Lane (see Map). The plant consists of four "cells," and two Babcock and Wilcox boilers. Space has been left in the building for the erection of two extra "cells." The refuse is fed into the cells from the top from trucks travelling on rails. On arrival at the Works, the contents of the carts are weighed in the carts at the weigh-bridge, taken to the hoist tower, and there tipped into hoppers, which are raised by two steam winches, working on either side of the tower. The contents of the hoppers, after hoisting, are discharged into the trucks running on rails already mentioned, and from them tipped into the cells. The cells are of the kind known as the Manlove and Alliott type. The gases from the cells discharge into a main flue, and find their way up the chimney shaft, which is 180 feet high. At the foot of the shaft is a "dust arrester," which prevents the fine dust from being carried up the chimney and distributed over the neighbourhood. There is a water-softening plant in connection with the boilers. A separate cottage is provided at the entrance of the Works for the Manager, and in the main building are the necessary offices, besides a mess-room and a bath-room for the workmen. The Works are lit by electricity from the Corporation Mains. The average weight of refuse burnt per week has been about 280 tons. The cost for labour of dealing with this refuse is about 1/3 per ton. Among the miscellaneous matters disposed of was a considerable number of animal carcasses, chiefly of dogs, cats, and pigs. The refuse burned included trade refuse brought to the destructor by tradesmen's carts; but the Authority does not undertake the collection of trade refuse. No complaint has been received as to any nuisances arising from the working of the destructor.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1914 for the Borough of Bedford on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	48	1	....
Workshops .. . (Including Workshop Laundries)	258	16	....
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	34	6	....
Total	340	23	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of cleanliness	20	20		
Want of ventilation .. ..	..	..
Overcrowding	1	1		
Want of drainage of floors	..	..
Other nuisances .. ..	..	..
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient .. .. .	..	..
Unsuitable or defective .	1	1		
Not separate for sexes ..	1	1		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ..	..	..
Other offences .. .. .	..	..
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report.)				
Total	23	23		

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESOME PRE- MISES, SECTION 108.				OUTWORK IN IN- FECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109—110.			
	Lists received from Employers.					Prosecutions.					Instances.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).			
	Twice in the year.		Once in the year.			Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.	Occupiers as to keep- ing or sending lists.	Notices served on	Notices served.								
	Lists.	Con- tractors.	Workmen.	Lists.	Con- tractors.											Workmen.		
Wearing Apparel—																		
(1) making, &c.	44	28	125	5	9	..	..	60	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
(2) cleaning and washing		
Lace, lace curtains & nets		
Furniture and Upholstery	6	14	5	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Electro-Plate		
File making		
Fur pulling		
Cables and Chains		
Anchors and Grapnels		
Cart Gear		
Locks, Latches and Keys	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Umbrellas, &c.		
Artificial flowers		
Nets, other than wire nets		
Tents		
Sacks		
Racquet and tennis balls		
Paper Bags and Boxes		
Brush making		
Pea picking		
Feather sorting		
Carding, &c. of buttons, &c		
Stuffed Toys		
Basket making		
Total	52	44	130	5	9	..	..	69	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Factories	75
Workshop Bakehouses	59
Other Workshops	278
Domestic Workshops	121
Work Places	36
Total number of workshops on Register ..	569

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:— Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	3
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5)	24
Other	3
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):— Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year	

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dated February, 1915.

MEAT INSPECTION, DISEASES IN MEAT, AND CONDITION OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The inspection of Meat and of Slaughter Houses is in the hands of Mr. E. T. Fell, who holds the Special Certificate for Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The Inspector, who is provided by the Authority with a bicycle, in order to facilitate his work, paid 1,735 visits to slaughter houses during the year. As far as possible he makes a point of being present at the time of slaughtering, but owing to the large number (29), and scattered positions of the various premises, this is not always possible.

The following is a summary of the work of the Inspector:—

No. of visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	1735
No. of Carcases inspected—Beasts	...	...	...	...	431
" " " " Sheep	...	...	...	...	956
" " " " Pigs	...	...	...	...	578
Total No. of Carcases Inspected	...	...	...	...	1965

The following table shows the number of carcases, from Slaughter Houses and Meat Shops, in which carcases, or portions thereof, were condemned:—

DESCRIPTION.	REASONS FOR SEIZURE.	WEIGHT.
1 Carcase (Cow)	Fevered (Calving)	690 lbs.
$\frac{1}{4}$ Carcase Beef (frozen)	Bruised and Unfit	92 "
1 Carcase Lamb (frozen)	Unfit (Bone taint)	38 "
1 Carcase Mutton (frozen)	Unfit	65 "
1 Carcase (Cow)	Fevered (Calving)	673 "
1 Carcase (Cow)	Generalized Tuberculosis ...	540 "
1 Carcase (Pig)	Generalized Tuberculosis ...	57 "
1 Carcase (Cow)	Unfit	568 "
6 Carcases (Sheep)	Unfit	240 "
		2963 lbs.

In one case the liver and offal of an ox were found slightly affected with Tuberculosis.

In some instances the lesions were discovered by the Inspector during the process of dressing, and in others by the butchers, and reported to the Inspector.

In every case the surrender of the meat was voluntary.

In addition the following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered for examination and destroyed as being unfit for food: 7 tins of prawns; 9 cases of mackerel; and 1 box of fresh herrings.

In November, Dr. Spencer Lowe, of the Local Government Board, visited the town, and made exhaustive enquiries on the perishable food supply in reference to the health of the troops quartered in the town and neighbourhood. He expressed himself as satisfied with the conditions under which food was prepared by the various tradesmen, and with the efficiency of the inspection exercised.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Sixty-seven samples of food and drugs were purchased during the year, and submitted to the Public Analyst for the purpose of analysis.

The following tables give the particulars of the articles analysed, results of analysis, action taken, and expenses incurred under the Act.

No. of Sample.	Articles.	Numbers.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Extent and Form of Adulteration.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Result of Proceedings.		Remarks.
								Fines	Costs.	
	Milk ..	40	..	..	.. .. .	..	..	..	..
	Butter ..	16	16	..	.. .. .	..	..	..	..
	Cheese ..	7	7	..	.. .. .	..	..	..	..
	Cream ..	1	1	..	.. .. .	..	..	..	..
	Olive Oil	2	2	..	.. .. .	..	..	..	..
	Jam ..	1	1	..	.. .. .	..	..	..	..
35	Milk ..	..	..	..	9 ^o / ₁₀₀ abstracted fat	..	..	..	..	Warned
39	" ..	..	..	..	7.3 ^o / ₁₀₀ " "	..	..	..	£1/9/6	Dismissed on paying costs
43	" ..	..	..	..	12.3 ^o / ₁₀₀ " "	..	..	..	£1/8/6	Dismissed on paying costs

NOTE.—Of the total number of 67 samples submitted for analysis, 4.48 per cent. were returned as adulterated.

One sample of Milk, No. 45, was sold as "skimmed," but was returned as being of a very poor quality new milk.

AMOUNT OF EXPENSES INCURRED.

Procuring Samples.	Procuring Boxes, Bottles, Printing, Postage, Packing, &c.	TOTALS.
£ s. d. 0 14 5½	£ s. d. 1 18 5	£ s. d. 2 12 10½

5 Samples of Town Water were also sent to Analyst for Chemical Analysis.

	£	s.	d.
Total Expenses incurred as above	2	12	10½
Railway Carriage on 5 Water Samples	0	5	11
Analyst's Fee on 72 Samples	64	10	0
	£67	8	9½

MILK SUPPLY: DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

Strictly speaking, there are no Dairies in the town, all the milk being supplied from cows on farms in the surrounding district. There is only one cow shed on a farm comprised within the borough limits; this is only used for housing the cattle at night during the winter. The Milkshops, on the whole, are well conducted, and are

many of them of attractive appearance, and up to the most recent standards.

Some dealers make a practice of testing the amount of fat in the milk as received from the farms, before delivery to the consumers.

BAKEHOUSES, ETC.

There are 59 Bakehouses on the Register, none of which are underground. Though some of the premises are small and old-fashioned, they are clean and well-conducted.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

It is desirable and necessary that the Authority should frame Bye-Laws for the regulation of Offensive Trades.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Those in force in the Borough are:—

Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1846.

Public Libraries Act.

Housing of the Working Classes Act; Part II. adopted.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Sections 15-27 inclusive.

Sections 29-33 inclusive; comprised in Part II.

Sections 34-47 and 49 and 57 in Part III.

Sections 52-60; 62-66 in Part IV.

Part V.; Part VI.; and Part X.

Notification of Births Act.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging Houses on the Register number 5. They have all been well conducted, and no complaints have arisen during the year.

Full details of the accommodation at these houses is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

During the year 441 notifications of infectious diseases, exclusive of Tuberculosis, were received, viz.:—

Diseases.	1914.			1913.	
	No. of Cases, Military.	No. of Cases, Civil.	No. of Houses Infected.	No. of Cases.	No. of Houses Infected.
Scarlet Fever	81	11	145	306	227
Diphtheria	35	128	122	122	106
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	1	1
Enteric Fever.....	0	2	2	3	3
Erysipelas	1	15	16	9	9
Puerperal Fever.....	0	0	1	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	11	0	0	0
Ophthalmia	0	2	2	0	0
Totals	117	259	288	441	346

In all cases of infectious disease, after removal or recovery of the patient, disinfection of the rooms and bedding is done free of

cost by means of Formalin and steam; in some cases the walls are sprayed with a disinfectant. In all fatal cases of Phthisis, immediate notice of death is given by the Registrar, and disinfection of the room occupied by the patient is always offered, and generally accepted.

Patients are removed to the Hospital in a horsed ambulance. A Nurse is always sent out with the ambulance. The Fever Ambulance is kept at the Hospital. Considering how rapidly horse-traction is dying out, the day is probably not far distant when a Motor Ambulance will have to be provided; this, of course, could be kept at the Hospital, and there would be a saving in the time now spent in taking the horses to the Hospital to fetch the Ambulance. The horses at present are provided by private contract, the cost of which during last year was £64. The Hospitals are in telephonic communication with the Medical Officer and with the Inspector. In cases of Diphtheria the patient, if possible, receives an injection of Anti-toxin before removal. This, in suitable cases, is supplied gratuitously by the Authority, and a supply is always kept at the Police Station for night emergencies. Provision is made for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Small Pox in the Borough Isolation Hospitals.

The cost of Anti-toxin Serum used during the year was £47.

The Isolation Hospitals are situated within the Borough boundary, between the London and Elstow Roads. The area of 17 acres, on which they are built, purchased from the St. John's Hold Trustees, was increased by the purchase during the year 1911 of two portions of land abutting on the Hospital grounds, and measuring 5 acres 3 roods. The acquisition of this extra land was necessary in order to prevent new houses being built close up to the Hospital.

The Hospital comprises seven distinct blocks of buildings. With the exception of the laundry, which is entirely of brick, all the blocks are "iron" buildings, consisting of wooden framework covered externally with corrugated iron, and lined internally with match-boarding. The largest and oldest group contains the kitchen, a dining room for the Nurses, and two wards used for Scarlet Fever. There are two annexes, one a portion of the original building, which contains a Nurses' "duty room," and a small observation ward, and a second erected a few years ago for the Matron's quarters. There are three other blocks, of somewhat smaller size, each containing two wards. There is a detached brick laundry, and also another building containing a coach-house, mortuary, etc. An entirely independent and separate block is situated at a distance from the Hospital in the middle of the grounds. This was erected originally as a Small Pox Hospital, and contained two small wards, a kitchen, and two bedrooms. Owing to the pressure on the accommodation, and to the increase necessitated in the Staff, it was found necessary to utilize this building as a Nurses' Dormitory. It is, however, ill adapted to this purpose, though during the year considerable improvements in the flooring, etc., were carried out, which have added greatly to the comfort of the inmates. By the direction of the Public Health Committee, the Surveyor prepared, in the earlier part of the year, complete plans for an Administration Block, suitable not only for present use, but for the needs of a

thoroughly modern and efficient Isolation Hospital. The matter was under the serious consideration of the Committee, but the outbreak of the war put a stop at once to all hopes of carrying out the scheme for the present. Nevertheless, a great deal was done during the year to improve the Hospital, and I have to express my high appreciation of the work of Miss Williams in this respect.

For some time it had been evident that the ward bedding required renewal on an extensive scale. Accordingly, the sanction of the Council was obtained, and 12 new bedsteads of uniform pattern, to replace old ones of varying patterns, sizes, and quality were purchased; also 58 new horsehair mattresses, as well as a supply of blankets, counterpanes, sheets, etc. The furniture of the wards was also increased by the purchase of more chairs, additional cutlery, crockery, etc. A very great improvement suggested by the Matron has been the adoption of the Ronuk system of polishing the floors of the wards. This has not only improved the appearance of the wards in a marked degree, but has rendered them healthier. Many improvements have been made in the Nurses' dining room and bedrooms, and the quarters of the domestic staff. The kitchen has been renovated, and its ventilation improved.

The care of the upkeep and repair of the premises was assigned to the Borough Surveyor, and this system has been found to work most satisfactorily. The Hospital is now an establishment of considerable importance, having grown up gradually from very modest beginnings. There is no doubt that the effect of the Notification of Diseases Act has been to educate the public as to the advantages of isolation for cases of infectious disease. The result has been that fewer and fewer cases have been treated at home, and the needs of the Hospital have risen with the number of cases.

One great improvement effected during the year was the installation of a complete system of electric fire alarms between the various blocks, which have also been provided with outside electric lights for the illumination of the premises.

On March 25th, 1914, in consequence of my appointment as full time Medical Officer of Health, I formally took over from Dr. Rowland Goombs the medical charge of the patients in the Hospital.

The nominal number of beds available in the Hospital is 72, distributed as follows: For Scarlet Fever, 40; for Diphtheria, 32.

The Staff during the year was composed as follows: The Matron, 6 Staff Nurses, and 7 Probationers; Cook, Housemaid, 2 Ward Maids, 2 Laundresses; Porter, with the additional occasional help of a second Porter and of a Needlewoman.

In the autumn the pressure upon the resources of the Hospital became very severe, owing to the occurrence of a considerable number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria among the troops of the Highland Division.

In August there were admitted 4 military cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Diphtheria. For the remaining months of the year the numbers were as follows:—September, 8 and 4; October, 13 and 12; November, 23 and 7; December, 34 and 9; the respective totals being Scarlet Fever 82, and Diphtheria 34.

The appended Table shows the amounts of the various payments sanctioned by the Public Health Committee during the year. It is not a statement of the actual expenses of the Hospital, but it is hoped that in the Report for the current year it will be possible to introduce a systematic analysis of the actual expenditure during the year.

BEDFORD ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

ANALYSIS OF MONTHLY BILLS.

	January.		February.		March.		April 1.		April 29.		May.		June.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Totals.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Coal, Coke and Wood	..	11 15 6	..	14 15 3	..	11 13 0	..	12 16 0	..	10 16 9	..	7 15 3	..	3 15 0	..	9 7 6	..	5 14 3	..	10 3 3	..	18 8 8	..	117 0 5
Meat..	..	14 5 9	..	14 8 2	..	14 8 10	..	11 6 7	..	11 13 6	..	10 11 4	..	9 17 0	..	21 9 2	..	12 8 3	..	15 19 2	..	20 14 0	..	157 1 9
Fish	5 8 3	..	4 5 11	..	4 5 3	..	2 11	..	2 10 5	..	2 6 4	..	2 8 1	..	4 4 3	..	3 7 2	..	5 8 0	..	6 13 3	..	43 1 10
Bread and Flour	..	6 3 1	..	6 6 5	..	5 19 9	..	4 6 11	..	2 19 0	..	3 12 1	..	2 18 2	..	5 18 11	..	4 11 6	..	6 0 6	..	8 0 10	..	56 17 2
Vegetables	3 7 2	..	3 7 10	..	2 19 9	..	2 13 1	..	2 7 4	..	2 5 1	..	2 8 4	..	7 3 8	..	2 13 5	..	3 18 0	..	4 11 11	..	37 15 7
Grocery	36 10 10	..	20 5 8	..	24 16 10	..	26 13 1	..	16 15 5	..	18 5 2	..	17 10 3	..	34 18 4	..	26 19 10	..	29 2 0	..	49 3 5	..	301 0 10
Milk	12 1 9	..	11 3 0	..	11 4 0	..	10 0 0	..	7 2 9	..	7 17 11	..	7 12 7	..	18 0 7	..	9 0 0	..	17 16 1	..	17 19 0	..	131 9 8
Furnishing, &c.	12 6 6	..	26 13 0	..	138 10 5	..	7 4 10	..	..	..	..	..	22 3 4	..	4 12 10	..	25 4 6	..	38 2 11	..	4 7 10	..	279 6 2
Drapery and Uniforms	..	2 10 0	..	..	..	1 17 11	..	..	..	3 9 9	..	2 13 4	..	2 18 2	..	3 17 5	..	0 12 7	..	14 2 0	..	31 1 6	..	63 3 6
Horse Hire	6 10 0	..	5 10 0	..	2 5 0	..	5 0 0	..	4 2 0	..	2 17 6	..	2 14 0	..	7 13 0	..	5 8 0	..	11 0 0	..	11 3 0	..	64 2 0
Drugs and Dressings	..	5 6 1	..	9 6 3	..	2 1 8	..	7 4 1	..	3 1 7	..	8 17 9	..	5 1 5	..	23 10 11	..	13 3 1	..	19 3 5	..	23 4 2	..	120 3 5
Medical Sundries	7 9 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 3 8	..	..	..	1 1 8	..	0 5 2	..	1 9 7	..	11 9 4
Extra Nurses	..	16 2 0	..	..	..	17 17 1	..	27 11 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 6 10	..	..	..	62 17 2
Bedf'd R.D.C. & Med. Fees	..	130 10 0	..	99 18 6	..	..	..	74 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	304 8 0
Miscellaneous	0 15 9	..	9 1 2	..	2 1 3	..	10 13 7	..	5 9 0	..	2 18 8	..	4 10 5	..	11 18 6	..	1 11 11	..	6 1 8	..	7 16 11	..	62 18 8
Electric Light and Fittings	..	27 0 6	..	..	..	0 2 11	..	..	..	44 19 7	..	..	..	..	..	26 8 11	..	15 0 3	..	2 14 0	..	..	..	116 6 2
Telephone	8 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	0 12 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 12 2
Repairs	2 15 10	..	..	..	4 8 1	..	0 8 0	..	..	..	1 1 3	..	..	..	..	..	0 19 0	..	..	..	9 12 2
Petty Cash	1 8 8	..	1 15 1	..	0 12 0	..	1 1 8	..	0 10 6	..	0 19 0	..	2 1 0	..	1 9 5	..	1 6 5	..	0 18 3	..	12 2 0
Total ..	290 17 0	229 5 8	249 8 0	214 14 5	116 16 9	70 10 11	87 12 8	181 5 0	128 5 10	183 8 5	207 4 4	1959 9 0												

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES
OF ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1914.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric.	Puer- peral Fever.	Ery- sipela-.	Acute Polio- myelitis.	Total.
January ..	12	29	1	..	2	..	44
February ..	2	15	..	1	1	.	19
March ..	11	18	..	..	..	..	29
April ..	13	7	1	..	2	..	23
May ..	11	6	..	.	..	..	17
June ..	6	6	..	..	3	..	15
July ..	3	8	..	..	..	..	11
August ..	9	4	..	..	2	..	15
September	18	11	0	..	..	..	29
October ..	24	25	..	..	2	..	51
November	33	15	..	..	3	..	51
December	50	19	..	..	1	..	70
	102	103	2	1	16	0	374

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CIVILIAN
CASES OF ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTI-
FIED DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR
1914.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric.	Puer- peral Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Acute Polio- myelitis.	Total.
January ..	12	29	1	..	2	..	44
February.	2	15	..	1	1	..	19
March ..	11	18	..	..	..	..	29
April ..	13	7	1	..	2	..	23
May ..	11	6	..	..	.	..	17
June ..	6	6	..	..	3	..	15
July ..	3	8	..	..	..	..	11
August ..	5	2	..	..	2	..	9
September	10	7	2	..	..	..	19
October ..	11	13	..	..	1	..	25
November	10	8	..	..	3	..	21
December	16	9	..	.	1	..	26
	110	128	2	1	15	0	258

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified in the earlier part of the year. One was that of a man in the employ of a travelling theatrical company, who came from a distant town, and there was strong reason to suspect that he had there contracted the disease by eating mussels. In the other case no cause could be traced. The fatal case which appears in the Tables was that of a soldier, whose home was in Bedford, and who contracted the disease whilst billeted in another town, where he died.

The following short abstracts will illustrate how important a part personal contact plays in the spread of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria; also the difficulty of guarding against "return cases," of which several occurred. The greatest care is taken not to send out any patients suffering from discharges from the nose or ear till they are entirely free, as far as can be ascertained. But in some cases there is no doubt that a discharge that had been latent and apparently cured has become again active after the patient's return to home, and a source of infection.

SCARLET FEVER.

- No. 3. Several cases had occurred in the same street.
- " 7. In contact with brother and sister after return from Isolation Hospital.
- " 10. In contact with No. 10.
- " 14. Patient came to Bedford from a neighbouring town, and shortly afterwards was certified.
- " 27. Patient nurse in the Children's Ward at the County Hospital, where a case of Scarlet Fever occurred a week ago.
- " 59. Brother of No. 49.
- " 64. Patient a nurse at Isolation Hospital.
- " 72. In contact with No. 59 after return home from the Isolation Hospital.
- " 86. Sister of No. 75.
- Nos. 94, 95, 99, 100, 102. Members of the same family.
- No. 101. Patient came to Bedford from a town in another county, and was shortly afterwards certified.
- " 105. Brother of No. 97.
- " 110. Sister of No. 108.
- " 114. Several cases amongst children attending the same school.
- " 121. In contact at School with No. 114.
- " 130. In contact at School with Nos. 114, 121.
- " 131. Patient in the peeling stage when the disease was discovered by the Medical Officer.
- " 135. Sister of No. 131.
- " 153. In contact with No. 134, after return home from the Isolation Hospital.
- " 155. Patient came to Bedford from another town, and shortly afterwards was certified.
- " 157. Several cases had occurred in the same street.
- " 169. In contact with No. 167.
- Nos. 175, 176, 177. Members of the same family.
- No. 182. Patient had been nursing soldiers at the Military Hospital

from which several soldiers suffering from Scarlet Fever had been removed.

- No. 186. Patient's sister, No. 153, returned home from the Isolation Hospital, having had Scarlet Fever one week previously.
- Nos. 233, 234. In contact with Nos. 225, 234.
- No. 239. Patient's brother, No. 157, returned home from the Isolation Hospital, having had Scarlet Fever one week previously.
- " 241. In contact with No. 228.
- " 249. Patient's brother, No. 228, returned home from the Isolation Hospital, having had Scarlet Fever a week previously.
- " 254. Several cases had occurred in the same street.
- " 257. Brother of No. 251.
- " 286. Patient had been nursing soldiers at the Military Hospital, from which several soldiers suffering from Scarlet Fever had been removed.
- " 333. Patient's brother and sister, Nos. 225, 234, returned home from the Isolation Hospital, having had Scarlet Fever a week previously.
- " 337. Patient's brother, No. 226, returned home from the Isolation Hospital, having had Scarlet Fever a week previously.
- " 341. Patient came to Bedford from Norchester, and shortly afterwards was certified.
- Nos. 342, 343. Members of the same family.
- No. 351. Patient had been nursing soldiers at the Military Hospital, from which several soldiers suffering from Scarlet Fever had been removed.
- " 352. Patient came to Bedford from Winchester, and shortly afterwards was certified.
- " 355. Patient had been nursing soldiers at the Military Hospital, from which several soldiers suffering from Scarlet Fever had been removed.

DIPHTHERIA.

- No. 1. Patient's sister developed Diphtheria a week ago.
- " 5. In contact with No. 1.
- " 8. In contact with Nos. 1, 5.
- " 12. Servant at the same house as No. 1.
- " 13. In contact with Nos. 1, 5, 8, 12.
- " 15. Patient's brother returned home from the Isolation Hospital two weeks ago, having had Diphtheria.
- Nos. 17, 18. Members of the same family.
- " 20, 21. In the same house, and in contact with Nos. 1, 5, 8, 12, 13.
- No. 22. Patient had been suffering from Scarlet Fever, and was treated at home, and two weeks after was certified as suffering from Diphtheria.
- " 23. Several cases had occurred in the same street.
- " 37. Members of the same family, as No. 15.
- " 38. Brother of No. 38.
- " 46. Patient in contact with No. 45.

- No. 50. Member of the same family as Nos. 42 and 43.
 „ 51. Patient came to Bedford from London, and shortly afterwards was certified.
 „ 53. In contact at School with Nos. 45, 46.
 Nos. 54, 55. In same class at School.
 No. 56. Patient, nurse attending Nos. 42, 43, 50, at their private house.
 Nos. 60, 61. Members of the same family.
 No. 67. Patient had been suffering from Scarlet Fever, and was treated at home, and eight weeks after was certified.
 „ 69. Several cases had occurred in the same street.
 Nos. 78, 79, 80, 81, 82. Members of the same family.
 No. 83. In contact with No. 65.
 „ 87. Patient's sister, No. 1, returned home from Isolation Hospital, having had Diphtheria two weeks previously.
 „ 89. Patient's brother, No. 88, died at home from Diphtheria.
 „ 90. In contact with No. 73.
 „ 92. Several cases had occurred in the same street.
 „ 96. Patient in contact with No. 58, after return home from the Isolation Hospital.
 „ 120. In contact with No. 104.
 „ 139. Brother of No. 136.
 „ 147. Patient came to Bedford from Scarborough, and shortly afterwards was certified.
 „ 152. Sister of No. 148.
 „ 154. Two cases occurred in the same street, Nos. 148, 152.
 Nos. 188, 190, 191, 192. Members of the same family.
 Nos. 210, 211, 212, 213. Members of the same family. Also, two soldiers, Nos. 166, 167, were removed from this house to the Isolation Hospital, suffering from Diphtheria a week previously.
 No. 220. Patient came to Bedford from a neighbouring town, where he was a school teacher, and shortly afterwards was certified.
 „ 244. In contact with No. 238.
 „ 261. In contact at School with No. 250.
 „ 263. A soldier was removed from the house a week previously suffering from Diphtheria to the Isolation Hospital.
 Nos. 312, 313. Members of the same family.
 No. 316. Brother of No. 261.

It is a well known fact that epidemic diseases exhibit a periodic increase and decrease in their prevalence. The subjoined tables give the statistics of scarlet fever and diphtheria in Bedford for the last few years:—

Year.	Cases of Scarlet Fever.	Cases of Diphtheria.
1906	218	94
1907	72	39
1908	65	65
1909	75	42
1910	66	33
1911	107	106
1912	135	94
1913	306	122

In 1914 there were 110 civilian and 82 military cases of Scarlet Fever, and 128 civilian and 35 military cases of Diphtheria.

Year.	Deaths from Scarlet Fever.		Deaths from Diphtheria.	
1906	6	.....	15	
1907	2	.....	3	
1908	1	.....	2	
1909 .....	—	.....	4	
1910	1	.....	4	
1911 .....	—	.....	14	
1912	2	.....	4	
1913	4	.....	8	

In 1914 there were 5 deaths (4 military) from Scarlet Fever, and 11 (2 military) from Diphtheria.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever in the civil population was 111 in 1914, as against 306 in 1913; and of Diphtheria 126, as against 122. If the military cases, 81 of Scarlet Fever, and 37 of Diphtheria be added, the totals for the year are 192 Scarlet Fever and 163 Diphtheria, as against 306 and 122 respectively in 1913. Thus, the total number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria among the civil population during 1914 was 237, against 428 in 1913. Even with the military cases added, the total is less than in 1913, namely 355 against 428.

COUNTY OF BEDFORD (BOROUGH AND URBAN DISTRICTS.)

From the weekly returns made by the Medical Officers of Health a Report is compiled each year showing the incidence of certain Infectious Diseases in each sanitary district of England and Wales. From this Report the subjoined Table is taken:—

Number of cases of certain Infectious Diseases notified in each sanitary area during the 52 weeks ended 2nd January, 1915, and the Attack Rates per 1,000 of the population.

	Estimated Population in the middle of 1914.	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Puerperal Fever.		Erysipelas.	
		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Aggregate Boroughs and Urban Districts	122,164	509	4·17	731	5·98	8	0·07	5	0·04	68	0·56
Boroughs and Urban Districts... ..											
Amphill... ..	2,293	22	9·59	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1·31
Bedford	40,198	106	2·64	128	3·18	3	0·07	1	0·02	14	0·35
Biggleswade	5,439	6	1·10	...	...	2	0·37	...	...	2	0·37
Dunstable	8,465	122	14·41	24	2·84	...	...	...	...	4	0·47
Kempston	5,505	22	4·00	40	7·27	...	...	...	...	1	0·18
Leighton Buzzard..	6,895	7	1·02	11	1·60	1	0·15	2	0·29	2	0·29
Luton	53,389	224	4·20	528	9·89	2	0·04	2	0·04	42	0·79

List of Milk Dealers (represented by numbers) supplying milk to houses where cases of Infectious Diseases occurred in the Civilian Population in 1914.

Dealers.	Houses Supplied.		Totals.	Dealers.	Houses Supplied.		Totals.
	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.			Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	
				Brought forward	80	104	184
1	1	4	5	25	1	2	3
2	5	8	13	26	0	2	2
3	1	6	7	27	8	4	12
4	3	3	6	28	0	1	1
5	1	1	2	29	1	0	1
6	6	0	6	30	0	1	1
7	0	1	1	31	1	0	1
8	0	2	2	32	0	2	2
9	1	4	5	33	2	1	3
10	12	21	33	34	2	0	2
11	7	8	15	35	1	1	2
12	1	1	2	36	0	1	1
13	1	1	2	37	1	0	1
14	21	11	32	38	0	3	3
15	0	1	1	39	1	0	1
16	0	1	1	40	2	0	2
17	0	11	11	41	2	0	2
18	5	0	5	various condensed	10	8	18
19	1	1	2		1	1	2
20	2	5	7				
21	1	2	3				
22	3	5	8				
23	0	1	1				
24	8	6	14				
	80	104	184		113	131	244

MEASLES.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are notifiable diseases, and consequently all cases come to the knowledge of the Public Health Authority. This was not the case with Measles, and therefore it was never possible to give any complete statistics as to the latter disease. From the first arrival of the Highland Troops in Bedford the possibility of an outbreak of measles among them was present to the minds of the Military Authorities, and arrangements were made for the removal of any cases that might occur to the Hospital of the Rural District Council at Clapham. The history of Measles pointed to the probability that, should an outbreak occur, it would especially affect those regiments drawn from areas in Scotland where the disease is practically unknown; it being a well recognized fact that Measles in a population where the disease is not endemic is apt to assume a very serious form. These anticipations were

unfortunately only too fully realized, and to a degree much exceeding that which had been anticipated. The first case of measles occurred among the troops on Oct. 15th, and about the same time a few cases in the civilian population were known to have occurred. No death from the disease occurred until December 13th, when two cases occurred in the Military Temporary Hospital at the Goldington Road Schools; the first fatal civilian case occurred on December 14th in a child aged 3 years. Up to the 31st December, 22 fatal cases were registered, 7 being of children, and 15 of soldiers.

When it became evident that the existing accommodation would not suffice, the Military Authorities took over, with the ready assent of the local Education Authority, the Goldington Road Schools, for the purposes of a Measles Hospital. This was opened on November 23rd with 17 cases, which number, by December 2nd, had increased to 55, and by the end of December to over 150. The number of cases in October was 8, in November 72, and 386 in December and the first week of January, 1915. The epidemic reached its height in January, and then rapidly declined. By the great courtesy and kindness of Lieut.-Col. Dewar, I am able to append a most valuable chart compiled by him, which, in a compendious and striking form, shows the full details of the epidemic among the various military units.

Though measles was not a notifiable disease at the time, much valuable information was afforded by the medical practitioners of the town, in response to a request made in September, that they would inform me confidentially of any cases of Measles coming under their notice. I take this opportunity of thanking them for the public-spirited manner in which they responded to an appeal involving for them much trouble and no remuneration. In this way information was obtained of 182 cases of Measles up to the end of the year. The first case was notified on September 30th, and the next not till October 8th. One case was notified in September; 20 in October, 36 in November, and 125 in December.

TUBERCULOSIS.

In accordance with an Order of the Local Government Board, dated Dec. 19th, 1912, the previous Tuberculosis Regulations issued in 1908 and 1911 ceased to take effect, and new Regulations became operative on February 1st, 1914. Under these, all forms of Tuberculosis, affecting any organ of the body as well as the lungs, are required to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health, with certain specified exceptions affecting the Naval and Military Services, the Prison Service, etc. The Medical Officer of Health is to keep a Register of all such cases, which shall "not be open to inspection by any person other than a person specially authorised by resolution of the Local Authority, the Medical Officer of Health for the Administrative County within which the District is situate, a School Medical Inspector for any area within which the District is situate, or an officer of any Government Department authorised in that respect by that Department." Every notification is to be regarded as confidential by all having access thereto.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS.

NOTE.—Cases previously notified and re-notified are not included in the following figures.

January 1st, 1914, to December 31st, 1914.

TABLE OF CASES OF PHTHISIS CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND AGE.

Under 1.		1 and under 5.		5 and under 15.		15 and under 25.		25 and under 45.		45 and under 65.		65 and upwards.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
..	1	1	8	4	11	9	2	..	2	1

TABLE OF CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND AGE.

Under 1.		1 and under 5.		5 and under 15.		15 and under 25.		25 and under 45.		45 and under 65.		65 and upwards.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
..	1	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..

There is no hospital provision for Phthisis in the Borough. Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are not admitted to the County Hospital; surgical affections arising from Tuberculosis being, however, still treated there. No provision for Sanatoria, etc., has as yet been made by the County Council, with whom this duty rests.

The cases notified under the Tuberculosis Regulations during the year have been for the most part visited by the Borough Nurse, under the directions of the Medical Officer of Health, and enquiries made; when required, "pocket flasks" and disinfectants have been supplied free of charge.

The proposed establishment of a Tuberculosis Dispensary aroused at the beginning of the year considerable opposition in the neighbourhood selected, and a subsequent proposal to select another site excited even greater opposition. Ultimately, an enquiry was held by Dr. Chapman, a Local Government Board Inspector and the original site approved. Public attention having by the war been directed to more important matters, it is not necessary to do more than barely refer to the subject.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

This adoption Act came into force in the Borough on January 1st, 1913.

The Act does not prescribe any payment for the practitioner or midwife, thus imposing a duty without making any remuneration; this does not appear equitable. Further, the wording of clause (1) of Section 1 of the Act states that it is the "duty of the father, if he is actually residing in the house where the birth takes place at the

time of its occurrence, and of any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after the birth, to give notice in writing of the birth, etc." In practice the notice is nearly always given by the medical attendant or midwife. As the expression, "person in attendance," is not defined, it would appear that the notice might be given by the monthly nurse. It would be much better if the Act were amended so as to require in all cases notification from, and only from the medical attendant or midwife, with payment of a small fee.

From January 1st, 1914, to December 31st, 1914, 594 notices of births were received. Of these cases, 204 were attended by 24 medical practitioners, two were treated in hospitals, and the remainder by 9 midwives, giving an average number of 8.6 cases for each practitioner, and of 41.9 cases for each midwife.

The Nurse paid 382 visits during the year to cases notified under the Acts. Enquiries were made and record kept of the method of feeding proposed. In 306 cases, 283 were breast-fed and 23 fed artificially, giving a percentage of 92.5 of breast-fed cases. There were a few fatal cases of infantile diarrhoea in the summer months, but no epidemic of that disease. I have already pointed out that the infantile death rate was the lowest recorded in the borough.

LABORATORY.

The usual weekly bacteriological examination of the water was carried on during the first three-quarters of the year, but after that, owing to the great rise in the price of the necessary materials, owing to the war, I regretfully felt compelled to put a stop to the complete series of records which extend back to the year 1905, and to continue only the records of the filtered water in the Old and New Reservoirs. The results of the chemical analysis made by Mr. Kear Colwell, the Borough Analyst, are appended to this report. The quality of the water has remained good throughout the year.

143 swabs were examined for Diphtheria from private practitioners, of which 31 gave a positive result.

In connection with the Isolation Hospital, 417 swabs were examined from 153 individuals, of which 286 were from civilians and 131 from military cases.

Of these, 262 were throat swabs, of which 28 were positive and 134 negative, and 155 nasal, of which 6 were positive, and 149 negative.

In 26 cases subcultures were made.

In seven cases which proved negative, swabs were taken in the course of my work as School Medical Officer.

33 specimens of sputum were examined for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus, the result being positive in 10 cases.

The year under review was quite an exceptional one in every way as regards the town as well as the country at large. When we consider the enormous temporary increase of our population caused

by the sudden descent upon us of over 17,000 troops, and the strain thereby thrown upon the resources of the town in every way, we may feel thankful that the public services of the borough endured the sudden test so well. The water supply was maintained throughout at its usual high level of purity and in abundance, and the sewage, though with difficulty, was adequately dealt with. It was unfortunate that the new Works were not completed before the strain came. The health of the town was, taking all things into consideration, remarkably good; it is true that an epidemic of measles occurred, but its extent and severity were due to special circumstances, and cannot be laid to the charge of the town. A large body of men drawn from districts where measles are unknown, and suddenly transported into a country like England, where the disease is endemic, was almost certainly bound to suffer considerably; the havoc wrought in the South Sea Islands by this disease is the classic illustration in medical history of this well known fact. No case of Enteric Fever occurred among the troops, there was no epidemic of Infantile Diarrhoea, and the other infectious diseases were less prevalent than in the previous year. We have much to be thankful for, and can only hope and trust that in the unknown and clouded future that lies immediately before us we may continue to enjoy an equal good fortune.

It remains for me to express my thanks to the Town Clerk and the Borough Surveyor for their kind assistance on many occasions. From my colleagues in the Public Health Department, Messrs. Merrie, Fell, and Haynes, I have received unfailing and loyal support, and upon them has fallen a great amount of extra work most cheerfully undertaken. To Miss Howard-Jones, the Borough Nurse, and to Miss Williams, the Matron of the Isolation Hospital, I wish to tender my thanks for their valuable services.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS,

M.A., M.D. (Oxon.); D.P.H. (Camb.); B.Sc. (Lond).

June 29th, 1915.

BEDFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

TABLE 1. VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT
During 1914 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		Deaths of Non- residents register'd in the District.	Deaths of Resid'nts not register'd in the District.	NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.			Under 1 year of age		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	42,362	717	..	16.92	459	10.84	44	14	60	83.7	429	10.13
1910	43,333	715	..	16.50	416	9.60	48	8	54	75.5	376	8.68
1911	44,325	706	708	15.96	498	11.23	35	22	91	128.5	485	10.94
1912	39,680	716	712	17.90	462	11.64	57	21	60	84.27	426	10.74
1913	40,156	678	678	16.88	432	10.76	55	21	59	87.02	398	9.91
1914	40,596	650	653	16.08	497	12.24	69	29	38	58.19	459	11.31

NOTE.—This Table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district, and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. For years before 1911 some of the corrected rates are not available. The rates are calculated per 1,000 of the estimated gross population.

In Column 6 are included the whole of the deaths registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district.

In Column 12 is entered the number in Column 6, corrected by subtraction of the number in Column 8 and by addition of the number in Column 9. Deaths in Column 10 are similarly corrected by subtraction of the deaths under 1, included in the number given in Column 8, and by addition of the deaths under 1 included in the number given in Column 9.

“Transferable Deaths” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided. The deaths of persons without fixed or usual residence, *e.g.*, casuals, must not be included in Columns 8 or 9, except in certain instance under 3 (b) below. In Column 8 is stated the number of transferable deaths of “non-residents” deducted, and in Column 9 the number of deaths of “residents” registered outside the district added in calculating the nett death-rate of the district.

(1) Persons dying in Institutions for the sick or infirm, such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses, and nursing homes (but not almshouses) are regarded as residents of the district in which they had a fixed or usual residence at the time of admission. If the person dying in an Institution had no fixed residence at the time of admission, the death is not transferable. If the patient has been directly transferred from one such Institution to another, the death is transferable to the district of residence at the time of admission to the first Institution.

(2) The deaths of infants born and dying within a year of birth in an Institution to which the mother was admitted for her confinement are referred to the district of fixed or usual residence of the parent.

(3) Deaths from Violence are referred (a) to the district of residence, under the general rule; (b) if this district is unknown, or the deceased had no fixed abode, to the district where the accident occurred, if known; (c) failing this, to the district where death occurred, if known; and (d) failing this, to the district where the body was found.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	...	...	...	..	2,200.
Total population at all ages	...	...	39,185		
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	8,893	At Census of 1911.	
Average number of persons per house...			4.41		

TABLE II.

BEDFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED								
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	Total cases re- moved to Hospital.
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria .. (including Mem- branous croup)	163	..	23	75	52	11	2	..	140
Erysipelas ..	16	..	..	1	2	5	6	2	..
Scarlet fever ..	192	..	24	59	97	12	..	..	161
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	39	..	..	2	12	20	2	3	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	7	..	..	3	3	..	1	..	..
Totals	422	2	47	140	168	49	11	5	301

Borough Isolation Hospital, Elstow Road, near Bedford.

Total Available Beds	72
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated	2

BEDFORD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

TABLE III. CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH

During Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non- Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
		All ages.	Un- der 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and up- wards	
All causes	Certified	462	37	11	18	21	18	66	103	188	137
	Uncertified ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<hr/>											
Enteric Fever		1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Small-pox .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		7	..	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	15
Scarlet Fever		1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Whooping Cough ..		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..		9	..	..	2	6	1	..	..	..	9
Influenza		8	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	3	1
Erysipelas .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		31	..	..	..	1	4	19	6	1	2
Tuberculous Meningitis		2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases		3	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	3
Cancer, malignant Disease		46	..	..	..	1	..	5	12	28	11
Rheumatic Fever ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis		2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease ..		43	..	..	..	..	..	8	10	25	6
Bronchitis		43	2	1	1	1	1	1	11	25	7
Pneumonia (all forms) ..		22	2	1	5	2	1	4	4	3	4
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs		9	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	3	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis		6	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Cirrhosis of Liver		4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Alcoholism		3	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		21	..	..	..	1	1	2	11	6	5
Puerperal Fever .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and dis- eases of Pregnancy and Parturition ..		2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature birth ..		26	24	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide		10	..	..	1	1	1	3	4	..	12
Suicide		8	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	..
Other Defined Diseases		143	4	4	3	3	3	11	27	88	45
Diseases ill-defined or unknown		7	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	..
<hr/>											
Totals		459	38	10	18	21	17	66	101	188	138

BEDFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

During the Year 1914. Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified	..	7	5	1	3	16	9	4	4	3	36
	Uncertified	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
{ Small-pox .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Measles .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping-Cough .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{ Diphtheria and Croup .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases } .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(not Tuberculous)			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions			1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	3
Laryngitis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Pneumonia (all forms) .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
{ Diarrhoea .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3
{ Enteritis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Gastritis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rickets .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis .. .. .			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Congenital Malformations			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
{ Premature Birth			6	1	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	8
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus			1	3	1	2	7	4	2	..	..	13
Other causes .. .. .			..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Totals ..			9	5	1	3	18	9	4	4	3	38

District of Bedford.

Population (estimated to middle of 1914), 40,596.

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate 611 Nett Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants 34
 { Illegitimate 42 { Illegitimate Infants 4

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, "nett" 459

NOTE.—The actual population (according to the Census Return) on April 1st, 1911, was 39,185.

COPIES OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF TOWN
WATER, 1914.

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

TOWN HALL,

ROSEBERY AVENUE, E.C.

February 23rd, 1914.

REPORT upon samples of WATER forwarded for analysis for the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Bedford, by Mr. A. W. Merrie, Town Hall, Bedford.

Sample No. 1 Town Water, taken from Service Reservoir by F. Haynes, on Feb. 16th, 1914.—A. W. Merrie.

Analysis (expressed in parts per 100,000).

Chlorine	...	...	2'9	parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.028	„
Saline Ammonia	...	...	0'0004	„
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0'0078	„
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	...	0'005	„
Oxygen absorbed in 1 hour	...	...	0'200	„
Alkalinity (as Calcium Carb.)	...	...	24'0	„
Hardness—Total	...	...	34'0	„
„ Permanent	...	...	11'0	„
„ Temporary	...	...	23'0	„
Total Solid Matter	...	...	52'0	„
Total Calcium	...	...	13'44	„
Total Sulphuric Anhydride	...	...	10'99	„

The sample was clear and had no smell. A microscopic examination revealed the presence of one or two vegetable and some mineral fragments.

Opinion.

The water is in its normal good condition at the present time.

(Signed)

J. KEAR COLWELL.

Sample No. 2, Town Water, taken from Service Reservoir by F. Haynes, on March 19th, 1914.

Analysis (expressed in parts per 100,000).

Chlorine	...	...	2.8	parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.016	..
Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0014	..
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0064	..
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	...	0.018	..
Oxygen absorbed in 1 hour	...	...	0.204	..
Alkalinity (as Calcium Carb.)	24.0			..
Hardness—Total	...	...	33.0	..
,, Permanent	...	...	11.0	..
,, Temporary	...	...	22.0	..
Total Solid Matter	...	...	53.0	..
Total Calcium	...	...	13.12	..
Total Sulphuric Anhydride	...	...	11.80	..

The sample was clear and had no smell. A microscopic examination revealed the presence of a few vegetable and mineral fragments.

Opinion.

The water is in its normal good condition.

(Signed)

J. KEAR COLWELL.

Sample No. 3, Town Water, taken from Service Reservoir by F. Haynes, on April 20th, 1914.

Analysis (expressed in parts per 100,000).

Chlorine	...	...	2.9	parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.023	..
Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0004	..
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0058	..
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	...	0.005	..
Oxygen absorbed in 1 hour	...	...	0.214	..
Alkalinity (as Calcium Carb.)	25.0			..
Hardness—Total	...	...	35.0	..
,, Permanent	...	...	12.0	..
,, Temporary	...	...	23.0	..
Total Solid Matter	...	...	56.0	..
Total Calcium	...	...	14.30	..
Total Sulphuric Anhydride	...	...	11.50	..

The sample was clear and had no smell. A microscopic examination revealed the presence of a few vegetable and mineral fragments.

Opinion.

The water maintains its normal good condition.

(Signed)

J. KEAR COLWELL.



Approximate sites of:

- Diphtheria cases
- Scarlet Fever cases
- Deaths from Phthisis
- Deaths under 1 Year

Δ
 ✖
 ○
 +

The colouring of the Map indicates approximately the Rentals:

BLUE	£8 - £100
GREEN	£10 - £20
RED	£12 - £30

Sample No. 4. Town Water, taken from Service Reservoir by F. Haynes, on 18th May, 1914.

Analysis (expressed in parts per 100,000).

Chlorine	...	...	2.7	parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.023	..
Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0008	..
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0066	..
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	...	0.022	..
Oxygen absorbed in 1 hour	...	...	0.266	..
Alkalinity (as Calcium Carb.)	22.0			..
Hardness—Total	...	...	31.0	..
.. Permanent	...	...	9.0	..
.. Temporary	...	...	22.0	..
Total Solid Matter	...	...	46.0	..
Total Calcium	...	...	12.30	..

Total Sulphuric Anhydride ... 9.13 ..

The sample was clear and had no smell. A microscopic examination revealed the presence of some vegetable and a few mineral fragments.

Opinion.

There is a notable decrease in the Total Solids and the mineral constituents, the quantity of Ammonia is practically normal, but the Oxygen absorbed is rather more than usual.

(Signed)

J. KEAR COLWELL.

Sample No. 5. Town Water, taken from Service Reservoir by S. Wise, on 11th June, 1914.

Analysis (expressed in parts per 100,000).

Chlorine	...	...	2.8	parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.023	..
Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0016	..
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0066	..
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	...	0.032	..
Oxygen absorbed in 1 hour	...	...	0.214	..
Alkalinity (as Calcium Carb.)	23.5			..
Hardness—Total	...	...	34.0	..
.. Permanent	...	...	11.0	..
.. Temporary	...	...	23.0	..
Total Solid Matter	...	...	47.0	..
Total Calcium	...	...	12.71	..
Total Sulphuric Anhydride	...	...	9.88	..

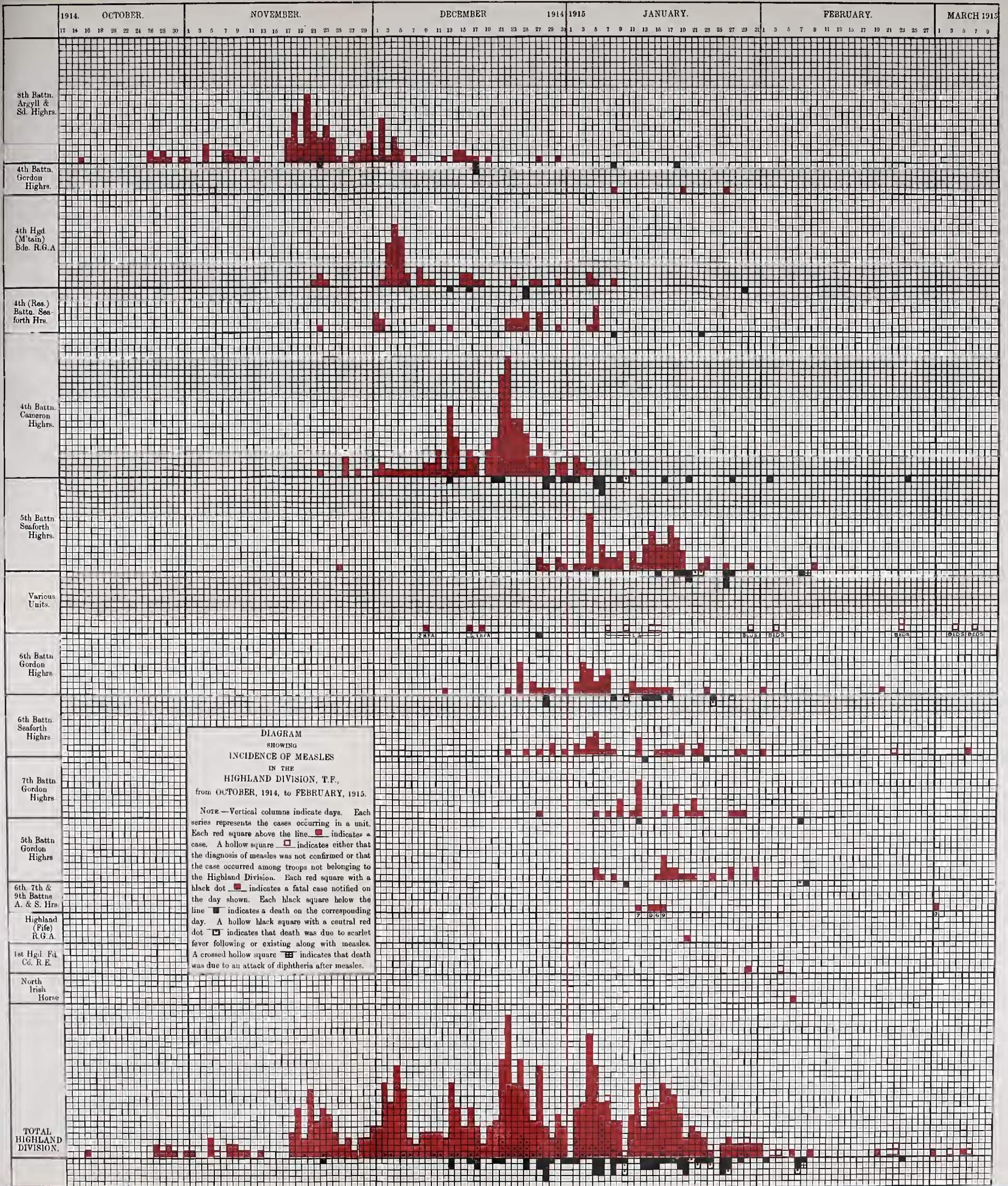
The sample was clear and had no smell. A microscopic examination revealed the presence of one or two fragments of vegetable and mineral matter.

Opinion.

The quantity of Oxygen absorbed has fallen, and the water appears to have resumed its normal condition.

(Signed)

J. KEAR COLWELL.



BEDFORD WATER SUPPLY. WEEKLY BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES FROM JANUARY, 1914, TO DECEMBER, 1914.

+ Denotes a presumptive presence of *Bacillus Coli*, indicated by formation of Gas and Acid.
(+) Denotes same reaction in only a slight degree.

The Numerals denote the number of Colonies developed.
On Gelatine at 20° C. in 100 hours.
On Agar at 37° C. in 48 hours.

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS, *Medical Officer of Health,
The Laboratory, Town Hall, Bedford.*

June 29th, 1915.



Borough of Bedford.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

For the Year 1914.

Bedford.

H. BURT & SON, PRINTERS & STATIONERS, 8, MILL STREET.

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Chairman—Councillor H. C. WILLIAMS, 16, *St. George's Road*.

Deputy-Chairman—Councillor F. R. HOCKLIFFE, 86, *High Street*.

The Mayor (Alderman H. BROWNING), 36, *The Embankment*.

Alderman :

H. C. DUNHAM, 58, *Midland Road*.

Councillors :

E. MONTAGUE AUSTIN.....	34, <i>Harpur Street</i> .
H. DAWE	2, <i>Ashburnham Road</i> .
C. W. DEACON	53, <i>De Parys Avenue</i> .
F. T. FARRER	13, <i>Ford End Road</i> .
W. A. JACKSON	75, <i>Ashburnham Road</i> .
J. W. NEWTON	25, <i>Conduit Road</i> .
W. NICHOLAS	5, <i>Park Avenue</i> .
J. W. SEAMARK	59, <i>Tavistock Street</i> .
W. E. SOWTER.....	11, <i>Amphill Road</i> .
J. H. TWAMLEY	7, <i>Shakespeare Road</i> .

Representative Members :

Miss S. M. COLLIE	<i>The High School</i> .
Miss E. DOLBY	8, <i>Lansdowne Road</i> .
Miss A. WALMSLEY	34, <i>Ashburnham Road</i> .
Mr. J. BALDWIN	56, <i>Castle Road</i> .
Mr. REG. CARTER	<i>The Grammar School</i> .
Mr. C. W. KAYE.....	<i>Modern School House</i> .
Mr. T. PEER.....	9, <i>Maitland Street</i> .

School Medical Officer :

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

School Nurse :

MISS M. HOWARD JONES.

Education Secretary :

S. C. GEORGE.

To the Bedford Education Committtee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on School Inspection for the year 1914.

In Circular 596 issued by the Board of Education it is stated that "It will be understood that Reports which are for the information of the Board of Education may well include statements of local circumstance, and conditions which would be superfluous if they were intended only for the information of the Local Authority."

I have therefore incorporated in this Report, as in previous years, a short account of the various Schools administered by your Committee, together with some remarks on certain matters as to which the Board of Education particularly desire information.

The Schools are distributed in six groups as follows:—

Amphill Road Council Schools, which comprise a Boys' School, a Girls' School, and an Infants' School.

Clapham Road Council Schools, comprising a Mixed School and an Infant School.

Goldington Road Council Schools, comprising a Mixed School and an Infants' School.

Harpur Schools, in Harpur Street and Horne Lane, consisting of a Boys' School, a Girls' School and an Infant School.

Priory Street School for Infants only.

Queen's Park Schools, consisting of a Mixed School and an Infants' School.

Amphill Road Schools were built a good many years ago and subsequently enlarged.

Clapham Road Schools are also of comparatively recent construction, and are well lighted.

Goldington Road Schools are the finest in the town and are built on the Central Hall system. As the length of the Hall in each block (Boys' and Girls') runs North and South, the class rooms on each side of the Hall receive a fair share of sunlight.

Harpur Schools for Boys and Girls are old, and in many respects ill suited for their purpose.

Priory Street School is a good modern building.

Queen's Park Schools are built on the Central Hall plan but the length of the Hall runs East and West, so that the class rooms on the South side get all the sunlight and those on the North none.

iv.

There is a considerable space of ground attached to each of the schools, which serves for the purposes of play and drilling, and provides a good air space for all the buildings. The ventilation is on the natural system, supplemented in many of the class rooms by Tobin's Tubes, and outlets in the roof.

The chief means of warming the class rooms is by Manchester grates. Clapham Road Infants' School is supplied with radiators as is also the Horne Lane Infants' School. It is hoped to extend this system of heating shortly.

Radiators have been fitted during the year in the Horne Lane Infants' School.

The seating accommodation in all the schools built or enlarged since the establishment of the School Board in 1897 is on the dual system, varying in size according to the age of the scholars.

The Harpur Street Infants' School has modern desks; in the Girls' School the desks are of mixed type—continuous, dual and single; in the Boys' School the antiquated continuous desks have been replaced with modern dual desks.

In all the schools wash basins are provided; in some schools basins are placed in the cloak rooms, in others in the passages; the latter arrangement is a bad one; each school is provided with a stand pipe and drinking cup in the playground. Very little use appears to be made of the washing accommodation: the possible educational value of a properly appointed lavatory does not appear to have been realized by those who planned or adapted the various schools. Everything should be done to impress children with the idea of the importance of personal cleanliness and decency. If they do not acquire these notions during their school life they are unlikely to acquire them at all.

All the cloak rooms are too small; in some of the schools pegs have to be provided in the passages as well. The pegs on the stands are placed too close together, with the result that the children's clothes overlap each other. In two of the departments wood is used for the pannelling of the cloak rooms; tiles would form a much more suitable material. There are no special arrangements for drying the clothes and boots of the children. The class rooms and cloak rooms are kept clean, but the ventilation of the cloak rooms is imperfect owing to their inadequate size, and the Harpur Infants' School and the closets in all the schools are of the objectionable Trough Type.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Electric Light has been partially installed at Ampthill Road Schools in the Boys' and Girls' Departments and at Clapham Road Schools in the Mixed and Infant Departments.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

The method of Inspection in its main features has followed that of previous years. The inspection of the intermediate class of children of the age of 8 years which I have in previous years always made was omitted in 1914, chiefly owing to the fact that most of them will have to be examined in 1915. This depends on the requirement of the Board of Education that all children of 8 years of age shall be examined, whereas the basis on which I had hitherto worked depended on a classification by the date of birth, that is to say for instance in 1913 all children born in the year 1905 were examined independently of the fact that some of them might not have completed eight years of age.

I have therefore this year included two sets of Tables, one based as in previous years on the classification by the year of birth, and another as now required by the Board of Education based on the actual age of the child at the time of inspection.

The number of mothers present at the various Inspections is shewn in the following table:—

Parents present at Inspection of

Boys, 12 years		Girls, 12 years
No. of Parents ... 14	.....	35
Infants, Boys		Infants, Girls
No. of Parents ... 84	.....	73
—		—
98		108
—		—

Total 206.

In one case the wife was accompanied by her husband.

Percentage of Children inspected during 1914 who were affected to a greater or less extent with "Nits" in the Head.

	Infants.	Children born in 1902.
BOYS	5.1 per cent.	2.6 per cent.
GIRLS	20.4 per cent.	22.7 per cent.

Percentage of Children with 4 or more decayed teeth.

	Infants.	Children born in 1902.
BOYS	32'0 per cent.	19'9 per cent.
GIRLS.....	38'0 per cent.	15'4 per cent.

Diseases and Defects, &c., 1914.

Table of Percentages.

Clothing :	Satisfactory	96'3 per cent.
"	Unsatisfactory	3'7 "
Foot-gear :	Satisfactory	93'4 "
"	Unsatisfactory	6'6 "
Nutrition :	Excellent.....	5'6 "
"	Normal	78'0 "
"	Below Normal	14'4 "
"	Bad	1'9 "
Enlarged Tonsils.....		21'8 "
Adenoids		1'1 "
Enlarged Cervical and Submaxillary Glands.....		1'9 "
Anæmia.....		3'4 "

For the sake of comparison the corresponding Table for the year 1913 is appended.

Diseases and Defects, &c., 1913.

Table of Percentages.

Children :	Good	96'7 per cent.
"	Fair	2'9 "
"	Bad	'3 "
Footgear :	Good.....	87'8 "
"	Fair	8'6 "
"	Bad	3'6 "
Nutrition :	Good.....	81'4 "
"	Fair	17'5 "
"	Bad	1'1 "
Enlarged Tonsils		20'3 "
Adenoids		1'9 "
Enlarged Cervical and Submaxillary Glands.....		1'9 "
Anæmia		4'7 "
Defective Vision		25'9 "
Strabismus (or Squint)		3'4 "

The subjoined Table shows the number of children who had suffered from any of the undermentioned Infectious Diseases before entering on School life.

TABLE.

Number of Infants inspected	...	467
Previous illness not ascertained	...	1
		—
		468
		—

No. having had

Measles	206	...	43·9	per cent.
Scarlet Fever.....	25	...	5·3	„
Whooping Cough	202	...	43·1	„
Chicken Pox	88	...	18·8	„
Diphtheria	11	...	2·3	„
None of above Diseases	99	...	24·9	„
Other serious illnesses	5	...	1·1	„

The new rooms for the examination of eyesight in the case of children with defective or suspected defective vision were opened in November. They comprise two rooms on the top floor of the Education Offices in Bromham Road and are well adapted for the purpose. The large room is used for a waiting room and for testing by "Snellen's Type": the smaller has been fitted up as a dark room for Retinoscopy.

During the year Miss Howard Jones, the School Nurse, has carried out a large amount of most useful work. She has been present at all the visits of inspection and has before the actual inspection carried out the routine work of weighing and measuring the children, thus enabling me to give closer attention to the clinical work. She has also carried out the routine testing of the eyesight by the Test Type method, in which work her large experience in eye work at Moorfields and elsewhere has been most valuable.

In addition to her work at routine Inspections at the Schools the Nurse paid 1073 visits to children at their homes, and 196 visits to the Schools independently of the Medical Officer.

In cases where children were reported as absent from School for suspected infectious disease she has visited their homes to make enquiries. For this purpose a system of Notification is in use through which the Medical Officer is supplied by the Head Teachers of the separate School departments with the names and addresses of all children absent more than 3 days through illness or alleged illness. The number of children treated by the Nurse for minor

viii.

ailments was 154; the affectionous treated are given in the annexed table :—

Ringworm	39
Bad Ears	9
Bad Eyelids.....	4
Inflamed Eyes	5
Abscess on Arm.....	1
„ Head	3
Sores on Head	15
Impetigo	18
Accident to Knee	1
Gathered Fingers	4
Injury to Foot.....	1
Bad Knees	5
Broken Chilblains	4
Blisters on Heel	4
Dirty Heads	40
Poisoned Hand	1

154

I would respectfully suggest that your Committee should take into consideration the question of adapting some central room connected with a School for the purposes of the treatment by the School Nurse of minor ailments.

The past year has been for the Schools as for every interest in the town and country an entirely exceptional one. On the eleventh of August, just a week after the declaration of War, the Military Authorities took possession of the Goldington Road Schools for quartering the East Anglian Engineers, who in a few days were replaced by the Bedfordshire Territorial Regiment. On Sunday, August 16th, the Highland Division of Territorials came into Bedford: the Argyll & Sutherlands occupied Goldington Road School: the R.A.M.C. (T.) of the Division occupied the Infants' Department of the Harpur Schools as a Hospital and Barracks: the Gordon Highlanders occupied the Queen's Park Schools: the Camerons the Clapham Road Schools. The Ampthill Road Schools were not occupied at that time. The various buildings were retained until shortly before the opening of the Schools on September 1st. The rooms were all scrubbed and thoroughly disinfected before the Schools were opened to the children.

On Saturday, November 21st, the Military Authorities, in consequence of a serious outbreak of Measles among the troops, requisitioned the Goldington Road Schools for the purposes of a Measles Hospital, and the Schools were still in Military occupation at the beginning of this year. For the purposes of the Hospital the Military Authority installed baths and washing basins besides temporary sheds for cooking and disinfection. (Vacated March 5th, 1915).

The following arrangements were made for the children dispossessed from the Schools. The Upper School classes were accommodated in the Clapham Road Infant School, the infants from the latter being sent to Priory Street School. The infants from Goldington Road School were installed on November 30th in a building in York Street known as East Hall. Before their admission to this building temporary latrines had to be erected: these are connected with the drainage system and are quite satisfactory.

No ill results to the health of the children have been traced to the interference with the normal school accommodation which in the current year has been even more disturbed than in that under review.

I have to express my sincere thanks to your Secretary Mr. George, and to the Head Teachers and the Members of their respective Staffs, for their kind and valuable assistance throughout the year.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS, M.A., M.D.

School Medical Officer.

April 21st, 1915.

x.

Table showing Number of Children inspected in 1914.

Age.	... 4	... 5	... 6	... 7	... 8	... 9	... 10	... 11	... 12
BOYS.	... 94	...111	... 33	... 12	... 3	... --	... --	... 160	... 151
GIRLS.	... 64	...100	... 35	... 13	... 3	... --	... 1	... 116	... 131
Totals.	...158	...211	... 68	... 25	... 6	... --	... 1	... 276	... 282

BOYS.

Return showing the Physical Condition of Children Inspected.

		12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Clothing	...Satisfactory	..144.	..151...	...	...	3...	..11...	..32..	..105...	..87
	...Unsatisfactory	... 7...	... 9...	...	...	...	... 1...	... 1...	... 6...	... 7
Footgear	...Satisfactory	..139.	..148...	...	...	2...	..12...	..31...	..99...	..88
	...Unsatisfactory	...12...	...12...	...	...	1...	... 2...	..12...	... 6	
Cleanliness of Head	...Clean	..146.	..157...	...	...	2...	..11...	..29..	..107...	..91
	...Nits	... 5...	... 3...	...	...	1...	... 1...	... 4...	... 4...	... 3
	...Pediculi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleanliness of Body	...Clean	..139.	..148...	...	...	3...	... 8...	..30..	..106...	..89
	...Dirty	...12...	...12...	...	...	...	... 4...	... 3...	... 5...	... 5
	...Pediculi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nutrition	...Excellent	...16...	...10...	...	...	...	...	... 1...	... 3...	... 4
	...Normal	..110.	..113...	...	...	2...	... 8...	..25...	..93...	..77
	...Below normal	...21..	... 31...	...	...	1...	... 4...	... 7...	..12...	..13
	...Bad	... 4...	... 6...	...	...	...	...	...	... 3...	...
Nose & Throat	...Tonsils: slightly enlarged	...20...	...27...	...	...	...	... 3...	... 9...	..21...	..13
	...Tonsils: much enlarged	...12...	...10...	...	...	...	... 1...	... 4...	... 9...	... 7
	...Adenoids: slight	...	... 2...	...	...	...	...	...	...	... 1
	...Adenoids: marked	...	... 1...	...	...	...	... 1...	...	...	...
External Eye Disease	...Blepharitis	...	... 1...	...	...	...	... 1...	...	...	...
	...Conjunctivitis	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	... 1...	...
	...Corneal opacities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Other disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ear Disease	...Obstruction: R.	... 1...	... 1...	...	...	...	... 1...	... 2...	... 2	
	...Obstruction: L.	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	... 1...	... 1...	... 2
	...Otorrhœa: R.	...	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Otorrhœa: L.	...	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Other disease	...	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

INFANTS—BOYS.

INFANTS—GIRLS.

"12 YEARS OF AGE"—BOYS.

"12 YEARS OF AGE"—GIRLS.

ABBREVIATIONS.---S.--Satisfactory. U.--Unsatisfactory. C.--Clean. P.--Pediculi. E.--Excellent. Nl.--Normal. B.N.--Below Normal. T.--Tonsils. Ads.--Adenoids. S.E.--Slightly Enlarged. M.E.--Much Enlarged. Sgt.--Slight. Mkd.--Marked. Bp.--Blepharitis. C.O.--Corneal Opacity. O.D.--Other Diseases. Ob.--Obstruction. Ot.--Otorrhœa.
 Sd.--Sound. Sep.--Sepsis. Org. Dis.--Organic Disease. Fun. Dis.--Functional Disease. Ch. Br.--Chronic Bronchitis. Ep.--Epilepsy. Ring. Hd.--Ringworm Head. Gld.--Glands. Def. Art.--Defective Articulation. Stam.--Stammering.

BOYS—*continued.*

		12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Teeth	...Sound	...53...	45...	...	...	...	2...	9...	25...	37
	...Less than 4 decayed	...71...	80...	...	...	2...	5...	12...	47...	33
	...4 or more decayed	...27...	35...	...	...	1...	5...	12...	39...	24
	...Sepsis	... 2...	3...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart and Circulation	...Organic disease	... 2...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Functional disease	... 4...	4...	...	...	...	...	1...	2...	...
	...Anæmia	... 2...	5...	...	...	1...	1...	3...	2...	4
	...Other defect	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lungs	...Chronic bronchitis	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...
	...Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Tuberculosis suspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Other disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nervous System	...Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...
	...Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Other disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...
Skin	...Ringworm : body	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Ringworm : head	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	...Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Other disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...
Rickets	...Slight	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	...Marked	... 1...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1
Deformities	...	... 4...	4...	...	...	...	1...	3...	6...	2
Tuberculosis non-pulmon- ary	...Glandular	... 2...	1...	...	...	...	2...	...	3...	1
	...Bones and joints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...
	...Other forms	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Speech	...Defective articulation	... 1...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	3...	1
	...Stammering	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition	...Dull	...	1...	...	...	...	...	2...	4...	2
	...Defective	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

GIRLS.

Return showing the Physical Condition of Children Inspected.

		12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Clothing	...Satisfactory	..130..	116...	1...	...	3...	13...	34...	96...	63
	...Unsatisfactory	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	4...	1
Foot-gear	...Satisfactory	..126..	112...	1...	...	3...	12...	33...	93...	59
	...Unsatisfactory	... 5...	4...	...	...	...	1...	2...	7...	5
Cleanliness of Head	...Clean	...98...	92...	1...	...	2...	11...	27...	79...	51
	...Nits	...33...	24...	...	...	1...	2...	8...	21...	13
	...Pediculi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleanliness of Body	...Clean	..127..	112...	1...	...	3...	12...	33...	93...	63
	...Dirty	... 4...	4...	...	...	...	1...	2...	6...	1
	...Pediculi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...
Nutrition	...Excellent	...12...	7...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	3
	...Normal	..100...	88...	1...	...	1...	12...	30...	87...	52
	...Below normal	...16...	20...	...	...	2...	1...	5...	10...	7
	...Bad	... 1...	3...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	2
Nose & Throat	...Tonsils : slightly enlarged	...17...	24...	...	...	...	4...	8...	17...	3
	...Tonsils : much enlarged	...10...	3...	...	...	...	...	2...	3...	3
	...Adenoids : slight	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	2
	...Adenoids : marked	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
External Eye Disease	...Blepharitis	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3...	...
	...Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Corneal opacities	...	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Other disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ear Disease	...Obstruction : R.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	...Obstruction : L.	... 1...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	...	1
	...Otorrhœa : R.	... 3...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Otorrhœa : L.	... 1...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...Other disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Teeth	...Sound	...50...	30...	...	...	1...	3...	11...	30...	22
	...Less than four decayed	...65...	64...	1...	...	...	3...	11...	35...	17
	...Four or more decayed	...16...	22...	...	...	2...	7...	13...	35...	25
	...Sepsis	... 8...	6...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table showing the conditions of Vision. Boys. 1914.

R.		L.6/6	L.6/9	L.6/12	L.6/18	L. 6/24.	L. 6/36.	L. 6/60.
6/6	242	226	10	3	—	3	—	—
6/9	43	14	22	5	2	—	—	—
6/12	7	2	1	3	1	—	—	—
6/18	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
6/24	12	1	2	2	3	4	—	—
6/36	4	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6/60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Normal Vision 6/6 each age 242

Table showing the conditions of Vision. Girls. 1914.

R.		L.6/6	L.6/9	L.6/12	L.6/18	L. 6/24.	L. 6/36.	L. 6/60.
6/6	172	149	12	4	3	2	1	1
6/9	38	5	24	5	1	2	—	1
6/12	8	1	4	2	1	—	—	—
6/18	10	—	2	2	6	—	—	—
6/24	14	1	3	—	4	6	—	—
6/36	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
6/60	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3

Normal Vision 6/6 each age 172

1914.

Table of Averages of Height and Weight.

BOYS AND GIRLS.

Date of Birth.	Height.		Weight.		Chest.		
	ft.	in.	Centi- metres.	lbs.	Kilo- grammes.	Inches.	Centi- metres.
BOYS .....1902	4	„ 6	137'2	69'1	31'3	25 1	63'7
GIRLS ...1902	4	„ 6'6	138'7	68'9	31'2		...

INFANTS.

BOYS	1910	3 „ 3·4	100·1	37·0	16·8		
	1909	3 „ 4·9	104·9	37·8	17·1		
	1908	3 „ 6·7	108·5	41·0	18·6		
	1907	3 „ 8·2	111·3	45·1	20·5		
	1906	3 „ 11·0	118·4	49·4	22·4		
GIRLS.	1910	3 „ 2·8	98·5	34·7	15·7		
	1909	3 „ 4·8	103·5	37·2	16·9		
	1908	3 „ 6·4	107·7	39·6	18·0		
	1907	3 „ 8·4	111·8	43·2	19·6		
	1906	3 „ 11·4	119·4	41·5	18·8		

APPENDIX.

Notice to parents—Date of Medical Inspection.

BEDFORD BOROUGH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

School.

Date

19

Dear Sir (or Madam),

I beg to inform you that the School Medical Officer will attend at this School in accordance with the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, on at o'clock, for the purpose of Medically Inspecting the Children).

As your child is on the list for Inspection you have the right to attend if you wish to do so.

Yours faithfully,

S. C. GEORGE,

Education Secretary.

Private and Confidential.

BEDFORD BOROUGH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

School.

Department.

Name of Scholar.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Dear Sir or Madam,

The School Medical Officer will be greatly obliged if the Parent will kindly put crosses in the List below against such of the Complaints as the above-named Scholar may have had.

	Measles.
	Scarlet Fever.
	Whooping Cough
	Chicken Pox.
	Diphtheria

Note.—The crosses are to be inserted in the small squares.

If any other illness, please state here below :—

Signature of Parent

This Form when completed to be returned to the School.

BEDFORD BOROUGH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Public Elementary Schools.

Instructions for getting rid of "Nits" in the Hair.

Soak the hair thoroughly with Paraffin Oil, and keep it wet for 2 hours. Then wash the head well with warm water and soap.

Do this the next day and the day after (for 3 days in all).

After the last washing, comb the hair very carefully with a fine tooth-comb wetted with vinegar.

Repeat the combing for several days till no more nits can be found.

In the case of little children, the fashion of wearing the hair short greatly lessens the risk of contracting the complaint.

Brushes and combs should be cleansed by putting them in boiling water for 5 minutes.

CAUTION.

As Paraffin is very inflammable, the child's head must never be treated in a room in which a fire or a lamp or candle is burning.

Always see to the head by daylight.

BEDFORD BOROUGH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

M.I.

From the Head Teacher,

.....School,

Date.....

.....Department,

All cases of infectious disease in a school must be excluded and reported AT ONCE on this form to:—
The School Medical Officer.

The following child (children) is (are) absent or excluded from school for the reason given.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Name.	Age.	Address.	Classroom or Standard.	Date at last attendance at school.	Disease.	Is the child (1) Suffering, (2) Suspected to be suffering, or (3) Excluded for house infection.	Symptoms of indisposition (if any), noticed by teacher in school. If none, state so.

NOTE.—On this form are included all children (1) SUFFERING FROM, or (2) SUSPECTED TO BE SUFFERING FROM, or (3) EXCLUDED FOR HOUSE INFECTION, for Scarlet Fever (S.F.), Diphtheria (D.), Typhoid Fever or Enteric (E.), and Smallpox as well as from the following diseases: Measles (M.), German Measles (G.), Whooping Cough (W.C.), Mumps (Mps.), Chicken Pox (C.P.), Ringworm (R.W.), Ophthalmia or Blight (O.), Scabies or Itch (I.), Impetigo (also Tonsilitis, Quinsy or Sore Throat, when Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria is present)

In column 6 the abbreviations indicated in parenthesis may be used.

In filling up column 7, it is only necessary to write the figure 1, 2, or 3, as the case may require.



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, BEDFORD,

February, 1915.

(To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.)

GENTLEMEN,

As Sanitary Inspector to your Authority, I have the honour to submit to you my Sixteenth Annual Report, showing the work done in this Department during the year ending December 31st, 1914.

SUMMARY.	1913.	1914.
No. of house drains tested on payment of fee	110	93
No. where defects were found	50	41
No. of schools and boarding house drains tested on payment of fee	33	33
No. where defects were found	6	7
No. of house drains tested on complaint... ..	18	30
No. where defects were found	10	9
No. of house drains examined after notification of infectious disease	208	235
No. where defects were found	21	17
No. of house drains inspected	479	1248
No. where defects were found	53	99
No. of retests made after drain repairs	167	95
No. of nuisances reported or discovered	110	353
No. of visits of inspection <i>re</i> abatement of nuisances, etc.	4447	4325
No. of houses inspected under Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 (Sec. 15)	191	230
No. of houses require cleansing, etc.	181	208
No. of houses require repairing, etc.	191	230
No. of houses require yards paving, etc.	164	180
No. of houses inspected under Section 17	16	11
No. of houses demolished (voluntarily)	4	4
No. of houses inspected under Public Health Act, 1875	555	660
No. of houses require cleansing	57	34
No. of houses require repairing, etc.	70	67
No. of houses require paving, etc.	25	29
No. of houses overcrowded	27	20
No. of notifications of infectious diseases	441	376
No. of patients removed to the Isolation Hospital ...	353	316
No. of rooms disinfected	444	452
No. of articles put through the steam disinfecter (civil)	2000	1050
No. of articles put through the steam disinfecter (military)		35700
No. of soldiers having had hot disinfecting baths ...		1158
No. of visits to factories, workshops, and outworkers' premises	548	523
No. of nuisances, etc., found at same	15	23
No. of visits to common lodging houses	120	112

SUMMARY.—Continued.

	1913.	1914.
No. of visits to houses let in lodgings	30	36
No. of visits to slaughter houses	2572	2054
No. of visits to cowsheds and milk vendors' premises ...	63	72
No. of samples taken under Food and Drugs Acts ...	107	67
No. found adulterated	13	4
No. of samples of town water sent for analysis... ..	7	5
No. of preliminary notices served to abate	815	1954
No. of statutory notices served to abate	747	1314
No. of legal proceedings taken under Public Health Act	2	0
No. of legal proceedings taken under Food and Drugs Acts	2	2
No. of legal proceedings taken under Housing and Town Planning Act	8	0

The following tables show the number of notices served under the Public Health Acts, Factory and Workshops Act, Housing and Town Planning Act, and Paving:—

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

1913

Nuisances.	Cleansing.	Over-crowding.	P. H. A. 1875. Sec. 36.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 37.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 25. Paving.	Factory Act.	Totals.
160	57	27	344	28	184	15	815
1914							
299	34	20	1036	343	199	23	1954

STATUTORY NOTICES.

1913

Nuisances.	Cleansing.	Over-crowding.	P.H.A. 1875. Sec. 36.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 37.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 25.	Factory Act.	Housing & Town Planning Act.			Totals.
							Sec. 15.	17.	18.	
17	0	1	325	28	169	0	191	16	0	747
1914										
19	0	0	570	305	170	0	230	11	0	1314

AT PRESENT UNABATED, BUT WORK IN HAND.

1913

Nuisances.	Cleansing.	Over-crowding.	P.H.A. 1875. Sec. 36.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 37.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 25.	Factory Act	Housing & Town Planning Act.			Totals.
							Sec. 15.	17 |	18.	
0	0	0	102	7	43	0	43	16	3	214
1914										
0	0	0	36	26	36	0	50	0	0	148

NOTE.—The outstanding notices unabated in 1913 have all been complied with. Those for 1914, the work is in progress or tradesmen have instructions to carry it out.

The outbreak of the War in August brought a sudden influx of some 17,000 Scottish Troops into the Town. This necessitated a vast amount of extra work, of which only the members of the Public Health and Surveyor's Departments have any conception. This was especially the case during the first month or so after their arrival.

Many of the troops came from the Highlands of Scotland, and being billeted in houses where modern sanitation existed (a fact of which they were profoundly ignorant) were a source of continual trouble, and it was some time before they could be made to understand the use of sanitary fitments, that, as they quaintly described, were being worked by "machinery."

In the meantime it was a case of continuous clearing of blocked drains, w.c. pans, and waste pipes, etc., and later on disinfection of rooms after illness, disinfection of verminous clothing and bedding. This entailed endless visits of inspection, etc. Still, I believe all our employees realized what was the primary cause of it all, and patriotically and ungrudgingly did their best to overcome these troubles.

For details as to the measures carried out by the Sanitary Authority, in conjunction with the Military Authority, to safeguard the health of the community, see Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

During the year 230 houses have been inspected under this Act. At each house more or less work was required to be done under the various sections of the Act. (*Vide* the Table showing the sanitary work carried out.)

The supervision necessary to see such work was properly carried out entailed 4,325 visits of inspection.

The number of houses already closed and demolished is shown as follows:—

During the Years 1905 to 1914.				
Locality.	No. Closed.	Rent Paid per week.	No. of Inmates.	No. Demolished.
Bell Court	3	2/6 to 3/3	19	2
Parish Court	+	1/4 to 1/8	16	+
Chandos Street	+	2/- to 2/3	13	+
Spring Gardens	8	1/11 to 3/-	19	8
Gravel Lane	3	3/3	22	3
Christie Court	10	1/6 to 3/-	27	10
Graham's Yard	5	"	12	0
Paradine Court	7	"	20	7
Malden's Yard	8	"	40	8
Castle Hill	2	2/-	7	2
Newnham Street	2	2/6	8	2
Gravel Lane	4	2/4	18	+
Priory Street	3	2/-, 2/3 & 2/9	6	3
Cardington Road . . .	1	5/3	5	1
Tavistock Place	10	2/10	32	10
Newnham Street	+	2/6 to 3/6	17	4
Hand Court	13	3/- to 4/-	41	13
Amphill Street	4	2/7 to 3/3	12	4
Totals	95		334	89
During the year 1914.				
Newnham Street	+	3/3	7	+
Totals	+		7	+

11 Closing Orders made under Sect. 17 during the year have been determined, the houses having been made fit for human habitation.

16 Closing Orders made under Sect. 17 in 1913, with respect to houses 25, 27, 29, Newnham Street, and Nos. 1 to 13, Hand Court, were determined by the demolition of the houses during 1914.

Notices were served under Sect. 15 in 1913 with respect to Nos. 24, 26, 32, 34, Newnham Street. In 1914 the owner declared his intention to close these houses under Sect. 15, Sub-sect. 4, and they have been demolished.

The demolition of 3 houses in Gravel Lane was carried out by the Local Authority at a cost of £15, and this sum was recovered from the owner of the property.

NUISANCES.

The nuisances discovered or reported at the Office (including those found during house-to-house inspection) were of a varied nature, as will be seen in the details of the Table later on. (Sanitary work carried out.)

In 54 instances, verbal intimation to persons responsible for minor nuisances were sufficient to procure the abatement thereof.

40 complaints were received at the office in respect to bad smells emanating from the street sewers, etc. These complaints were at once handed to the Borough Surveyor, who had the matter investigated, and had ventilating shafts erected where necessary, and closed the manhole gratings.

In 15 instances complaints were received from households relative to the non-removal of house refuse. These were at once communicated to the Borough Surveyor, who had them attended to.

DRAIN TESTING.

93 house drains were tested, and the sanitary fittings reported upon, on a payment of a fee of 10/-, for which £46/10/- were received and paid into the District Fund. At 41 defects of a more or less serious nature were found. In 11 instances new 4" drains were laid under modern conditions, 7 intercepting traps being fixed.

The defects at the other houses were remedied, and passed after retesting.

30 drains were tested on complaint, and in 9 instances were found defective. 5 of them were relaid, and 4 were repaired.

235 drains were examined after notification of infectious disease in the houses, and in 17 instances were found defective and remedied. The defects were not of such a serious nature as to be the probable causes of the disease in the house.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

33 drains of the Schools and Boarding Houses in connection with the Schools were tested, and a report sent to the Governors and Boarding House Masters. Defects were found in 5 instances, and were remedied.

The same inspection was made at the Kindergarten, Moravian, and Crescent House Schools. 1 defect was found and remedied. £21 was received on this account and paid into the District Fund.

HOUSES NOT CONNECTED TO THE SEWAGE SYSTEM.

Pail Closets.		Earth Closets.		Cesspools.		Midden.		Septic Tank.	
1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.
4	4	14	14	5	6	3	3	1	1

NOTE.—The remaining 4 earth closets at the Borough Isolation Hospital are in process of conversion into water closets.

HOUSES IN THE BOROUGH WITHOUT SEPARATE W.C. ACCOMMODATION.

In 1913 there were 128 houses with 62 w.c.'s. At present there are 124 houses with 60 w.c.'s.

Allhallows Lane	...	...	2 w.c.'s to	4 houses.
Allhallows Lane	...	...	3 " "	5 "
Allhallows Lane	...	...	1 " "	2 "

Beauchamp Row	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Beauchamp Row	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Beauchamp Row	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Bell Court	...	...	2	"	"	4	"
Bell Court	...	...	2	"	"	4	"
Butcher's Yard	...	...	2	"	"	6	"
Castle Hill	...	...	2	"	"	3	"
Chandos Street	...	...	2	"	"	3	"
Chandos Street	...	...	3	"	"	6	"
Chandos Street	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Chandos Street	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Gravel Lane	...	...	2	"	"	4	"
Greenhill Street	...	...	2	"	"	5	"
Hassett Street	...	...	2	"	"	5	"
Ram Yard	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Richbell Court	...	...	3	"	"	7	"
Rope Walk	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Rose Cottages	...	...	3	"	"	7	"
Sadler's Court	...	...	3	"	"	6	"
St. Cuthbert's Square	...	...	6	"	"	12	"
St. John's Place	...	...	5	"	"	10	"
Thurlow Street	...	...	3	"	"	5	"
Tower Court	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Tavistock Place	...	...	1	"	"	3	"
Tavistock Place	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Tavistock Place	...	...	1	"	"	3	"
Union Street	...	...	1	"	"	2	"
Total			...	60	"	"	124

In 2 instances there are 3 houses to 1 w.c.

In 3 " " " 5 " 2 w.c.'s

In 2 " " " 7 " 2 w.c.'s.

In 3 " " " 3 " 2 w.c.'s.

In 2 " " " 5 " 3 w.c.'s.

The remaining houses have 1 w.c. to 2 houses.

The accommodation for the above houses is sufficient for the needs of the occupiers, although they would prefer to have separate ones, but this cannot be enforced.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

1914.

1913.

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.	Factory and Workshop Act.	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.	Factory and Workshop Act.
No. of Workshops cleansed ...			9			0
No. of Outworkers' Premises cleansed ...			6			7
No. of Bakehouses cleansed...			5			7
No. of Abstracts of Factory Act affixed ...			0			0
No. of overcrowding of Workrooms abated ...			1			0
No. of Workrooms ventilated			0			0
No. additional Lavatory Accommodation provided ...			2			1
No. of Cowsheds limewashed...	4			4		
No. of Slaughter Houses limewashed ...	120			120		
No. of rooms in Common Lodging Houses limewashed ...	242			242		
No. of rooms in Houses let in Lodgings cleansed ...	65			65		

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.—Continued.

1914.

1913.

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.
DRAINS.				
No. found blocked and cleared ...	71	3	123	2
No. flushed ...	71	3	123	2
No. found defective ...	54	18	70	35
No. repaired ...	54	18	70	35
No. wholly relaid ...	20	9	17	27
No. removed from inside houses ...	0	0	0	0
No. of intercepting traps fixed ...	9	0	9	1
No. of intercepting traps repaired ...	1	0	0	0
No. of intercepting traps stoppers fixed ...	7	4	14	0
No. of chambers and manholes built...	45	19	36	11
No. of new covers to manholes ...	50	7	14	0

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.—*Continued.*

1914.

1913.

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.
No. of fresh air inlets fixed ...	34	4	6	0
No. of fresh air inlets repaired ...	21	0	23	0
No. of soil and vent pipes fixed ...	8	2	33	0
No. of soil and vent pipes repaired ...	18	2	11	8
No. of soil pipes removed from houses	0	0	31	0
No. of new gullies provided to sinks	3	47	2	0
No. of insanitary traps abolished ...	2	95	0	93
No. of rain water pipes disconnected	437	55	0	5
No. of rain water tanks cleared out...	36	1	9	21
No. of rain water tanks made to overflow gullies ...	13	3	12	2
YARDS, ETC.				
No. of yards paved ...	10	172	9	155
No. of yard paving repaired...	29	13	27	4
No. of right of ways gravelled and levelled ...	2	17	0	19
No. of division walls and fences repaired ...	1	4	0	5
No. of gates repaired ...	1	4	0	2
No. of ashbins provided ...	1000	0	242	0
Animals and fowls improperly kept...	15	1	2	2
Manure and other offensive matter removed ...	12	1	4	2
Manure pits rebuilt or repaired ...	6	0	0	0
HOUSES.				
No. of rooms and staircases cleansed	142	773	191	665
No. of inside walls repaired ...	142	773	191	665
No. of verminous rooms fumigated...	0	56	0	46
No. of damp walls remedied...	8	227	2	224
No. of house floors relaid or repaired	16	230	5	310
No. of window cords repaired ...	16	285	2	154
No. of window frames repaired and made to open ...	16	306	2	250
No. of bedrooms ventilated ...	14	310	7	235
No. of firegrates and fireplaces repaired ...	0	69	2	81
No. of new doors fixed ...	1	15	1	1
No. of doors repaired ...	1	53	0	55
No. of splashboards fixed to doors...	0	16	0	19

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.—*Continued.*

1914.

1913.

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.
No. of cupboards repaired	0	30	0	48
No. of cupboards cleansed	13	136	0	120
No. of pantries cleansed	1	106	0	122
No. of pantries repaired or provided	1	36	0	100
No. of coppers repaired	4	46	0	61
No. of water service pipes repaired ...	1	10	2	2
No. supplied with separate service ...	0	41	0	100
No. of sinks fixed	2	47	9	93
No. of sinks repaired	2	12	7	2
No. of new waste pipes fixed... ..	9	81	7	111
No. of waste pipes repaired	14	3	2	25
No. of sink and bath waste pipes trapped	62	0	44	0
No. of outside walls repaired.. ...	1	77	0	63
No. of roofs repaired	1	62	4	103
No. of spoutings repaired	13	81	16	96
No. of chimney heads repaired	1	30	0	47
No. of outside passages limewashed	0	13	0	7
No. of stair treads repaired	1	33		
No. of pantries ventilated	0	110		
No. of floors ventilated	1	42		
W.C.'s, Etc.				
No. of new w.c.'s built	0	5		
No. of defective w.c.'s repaired	5	49	0	42
No. of w.c.'s rebuilt	1	6	0	31
No. of new pedestal pans fixed	32	14	16	20
No. of hopper pans fixed	4	15	5	2
No. of filthy pans cleansed	130	11	100	3
No. of pan closets removed	0	0	1	0
No. of w.c. seats repaired	9	44	7	22
No. of w.c. cisterns repaired or fixed	49	26	57	31
No. of floors relaid	2	53	0	72
No. of w.c. doors repaired	3	35	4	24
No. of lights provided to w.c.	11	134	16	124
No. of ventilators fixed to w.c.	0	5	0	16
No. of w.c. walls cleansed	8	189	18	122
No. of w.c. roofs repaired	3	49	8	73
No. of w.c. spoutings provided or re- paired	7	68	4	75
No. of earth closets converted to water closets	0	0	2	0

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.—*Continued.*

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.
No. of middens converted to earth closets	0	0	0	0
No. of cesspools abolished and drained to sewer	0	0	1	0
No. of flushing pipe joints repaired ...	21	10		
OUTHOUSES.				
No. of defective ones repaired ...	1	48	1	59
No. rebuilt	0	2	0	7
No. demolished	0	1	0	2
No. of floors relaid and repaired ...	0	102	2	78
No. of doors repaired	0	27	0	25
No. of walls cleansed	3	164	7	125
No. of roofs repaired	0	53	6	81
No. of spoutings provided or repaired	11	65	3	63
No. of stable floors relaid	1	1	0	4

It may be thought, on perusal of the above table of sanitary work carried out, that many of the items are of a small or trivial nature, but small sanitary defects have a greater influence upon the health of the community than many persons realise. Bacteriology has shown us what a menace to health small things can be.

Broken window cords, for instance, do not allow of the windows being open; this means foul air in the room; foul air may predispose the inhaler to consumption, and repaired window cords may mean fresh air and good health.

Complaints are received that there are bad smells arising from defective drains about the house; on investigation the drains are found sound, but the gullies are dirty, and the waste pipes foul, and vitiated air passing up untrapped and foul waste pipes in the house may be the primary cause of disease in those inhaling it.

Damp walls, from the surface of the garden being above the damp course, and the air gratings covered; result, dry rot and bad smells under the floor. Loose paving around sink gullies, allowing soakage in the earth, a warm day, children playing around the gully, and diarrhoea is the result; and so on. It often requires a deal of proving before a complaining householder is convinced that the smells they have experienced have not been from defective drains, but from other sources.

SANITARY DUSTBINS.

During the year 1,036 notices to provide proper galvanized iron sanitary dustbins have been served upon the owners of houses, and it is gratifying to note that out of this number only 36 have not yet complied with the order, but in the majority of instances orders have been given to tradesmen to supply them as soon as they can be procured. The elimination of 1,000 of these saturated filthy wooden boxes must tend to more healthy surroundings. I would again emphasize the necessity of Bye-Laws regulating what kind of refuse should only be placed in these bins, as wet filth of various kinds is placed in them, which puts more strain upon the working of the Destructor.

STATUTE FAIRS.

The dwelling vans of the Showmen who visit the Town for the purpose of attending these fairs were all inspected.

No cases of sickness were discovered among the occupiers. The condition of the vans was satisfactory, though I believe some of them were overcrowded at night.

Only the April Fair was held during the year. The October one was abandoned, for the reason that the Military were in occupation of the Fair Ground.

COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of 1914 the Register contained the names of persons keeping 1 Cowshed and 27 Milkshops, together with the names of 38 Purveyors of Milk. 14 of the latter reside outside the town, but retail milk within the Borough.

There is a decrease of 1 Purveyor of Milk during the year.

The Food Inspector has on 72 occasions visited the premises of the Cowkeepers and Milk Vendors. (See Report of Medical Officer of Health.)

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Slaughter Houses in the Borough number 29, yearly licences being granted by the Authority to 22. The Food Inspector has made 2,054 visits to them. (See Report of the Medical Officer of Health.)

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION (P.H.A., 1875).

660 houses have been inspected, and I have called the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to 34 houses in which more or less internal cleansing was necessary, and he has certified, where required, under Sect. 46 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to that effect.

The usual notices were served, and have been complied with.

OVERCROWDING.

From August to December 31st, owing to our adult population being practically doubled through the large number of troops coming into the town, there was and is a considerable number of rooms in houses overcrowded, children being made to sleep in their parents' bedrooms in order to make room for the soldiers billeted in the houses.

Under these abnormal conditions, it is not possible to insist upon the recognised air space usual in civil life, and no doubt it is no worse than what temporarily occurs in seaside and other health resorts during their busy summer seasons.

The 20 cases of overcrowding discovered and reported during the year occurred in houses in which soldiers were not billeted.

On serving the usual notice the nuisance was abated.

It is owing to the dearth of small houses, the closing of houses, and the leaving of other houses by the occupiers owing to increased rents, which they are unable to pay, that causes two or three families to crowd into one house. Improved health, better morals, less crime, and a more useful and cleaner people will, ultimately, no doubt, be the result of the application of the Housing Acts, but, unfortunately, the occupiers of the houses have to pay for these improvements. The increased rent charged by owners is very often out of all proportion to the expense incurred in putting the houses in repair; in fact, as soon as the owner hears that the house has been inspected, and before a notice has been served upon him, he often gives the tenant notice that the rent will be raised 3d. or 6d. a week.

Even the order to supply a sanitary dustbin is often the cause of the rent being raised 2d. a week.

As private enterprise does not provide a low-rented house, it is evident that sooner or later the Authority will have to do so, and the question of so doing should be seriously considered by the Authority.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 376 notifications of infectious disease were received by the Medical Officer of Health, viz.:—

Diseases.	1914.			1913.	
	No of Cases, Military.	No. of Cases, Civil.	No. of Houses Infected.	No. of Cases.	No. of Houses Infected.
Scarlet Fever	81	11	145	306	227
Diphtheria	35	128	122	122	106
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	1	1
Enteric Fever	0	2	2	3	3
Erysipelas	1	15	16	9	9
Puerperal Fever	0	11	1	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia	0	2	2	0	0
Totals	117	259	288	441	346

All the houses were visited, including those where soldiers were billeted, and the circumstances surrounding the cases entered in the Register for the information of the Medical Officer of Health.

In all cases of infectious diseases, disinfection is done free of cost to the occupier of the house.

454 rooms were disinfected by means of Formic Aldehyde, gas being generated by vapourising Formalin Tablets, or vapourising 40 per cent. Formalin in the presence of steam.

For this purpose 62 lbs. of Formalin Tablets, 12 gallons of liquid Formalin, 19 gallons of methylated spirit, and 605 12oz. cylinders of sulphur were used.

1,050 articles of bedding and clothing were removed from infected houses, and put through the Steam Disinfector, which is fixed at the Newnham Pumping Station.

By means of this machine absolute disinfection can be obtained, as the main essentials for rapid and efficient disinfection are the use of "saturated steam," and the entire absence of residual air in the chamber, this insuring the utmost penetrating power of the saturated steam, acting as a vapour.

This machine has also been used by the Military Authorities, and 35,700 articles of clothing, bedding, and blankets have been disinfected, as well as 1,158 soldiers having had hot disinfectant baths.

CONSUMPTION.

Arrangements have been made with the Registrar of Deaths to at once send a certificate to the Medical Officer of Health when a death occurs from this disease, in order that disinfection of the house and bedding may be offered to the occupiers of the house. 28 of such death certificates were received, and in 18 instances disinfection was accepted. In the other cases the rooms were disinfected by the occupiers of the houses.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 3 Offensive Trades carried on in the Borough, viz., Frying of Fish, Rag and Bone dealing, and storing of Hides, Skins, and Fat.

Several complaints were received as to bad smells emanating from the yards or storehouses of dealers in rags, bones, hides, skins, and fat. On investigation it was usually found that the effluvia arose from accumulations of bones and fat, there not being proper covered receptacles for storing the same.

The following are the situations where "offensive trades" are carried on in the Borough:—

FISH FRYING (12).	RAG AND BONE (5).	HIDES & SKIN (2).
26, Ford End Road.	Balsall Street East.	Gwyn Street.
66, Ildesleigh Road.	Gwyn Street.	Roise Street.
49, Howbury Street.	Beckett Street.	
2, Harpur Street.	Hassett Street.	
58, Cauldwell Street.	Midland Road.	
59, St. John's Street.		
37, Muswell Road.		
37, Park Road E.		
62, Tavistock Street.		
108, Greyfriars Walk.		
1, Great Butts Street		
34, Denmark Street.		

With the exception of the fish frying at 58, Cauldwell Street, for which written permission has been granted, all the others were in existence before June, 1912, at which date the Local Government Board scheduled these as being offensive trades for the Borough.

At present 3 houses, viz., 49, Howbury Street, 108, Greyfriars Walk, and 58, Cauldwell Street, are closed, owing to the difficulty in procuring fish. These, if opened again by new occupiers, will have to get permission from the Local Authority.

I would again suggest the advisability of the Authority making Regulations or Bye-Laws governing the conditions under which offensive trades in the Borough should be carried on.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Sixty-seven samples of Food and Drugs have been purchased during the year, and submitted to the Public Analyst for the purpose of analysis.

For details see Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

There are 36 houses, with 90 rooms, on the Register. 36 visits of inspection have been made to them, and they were found in a fairly good sanitary condition.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging Houses on the Register number 5, with 121 beds, 3 being houses which are also licensed for the sale of intoxicants.

During the year two changes in the keepers of these houses have occurred, and these licences become annual ones. There are now only two (the White Hart and the Cock) that do not require yearly licences. On the whole, the houses have been kept in a clean and orderly manner. In one instance part of the ceiling of the common kitchen came down, and the roof tiles of the w.c. were found defective. These were promptly repaired, and were the only cause of complaint discovered in the numerous visits made by myself and in company with the Medical Officer of Health.

The periodical limewashing has been properly carried out.

There is a decrease of 3,882 in the numbers, compared with last year, of persons using the houses. This occurred during the first three quarters of the year, the last quarter showing an increase of 781 persons over that of last year.

No case of infectious disease occurred among the inmates of the houses, except a case of Phthisis at The Cock. The Medical Officer of Health visited the house, and gave certain instructions to the keeper in regard to same.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The following are the names of the Houses, the number of beds in each house, and the number of persons who stayed in the houses during the year, as shown by the weekly returns:—

8A, TAVISTOCK PLACE. Six rooms. 50 beds.			THE COCK. 4 rooms. 22 beds.		THE ROYAL OAK LIVE. 3 rooms. 16 beds. 4 rooms. 26 beds. 2 rooms. 7 beds.		THE WHITE HART. FIVE HOUSES, 121 beds.		TOTALS FOR						
1914.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Total.	Males.	Total.	Males.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.			
1st Qr.	1895	116	2011	1162	819	1201	1201	491	401	5478	116	5594			
2nd Qr.	2012	139	2151	1120	634	951	951	359	359	5076	139	5215			
3rd Qr.	1930	140	2070	1158	859	1509	1509	402	402	5858	140	5998			
4th Qr.	2866	170	3036	1372	904	1302	1302	551	551	6995	170	7165			
Totals	8703	565	9268	4812	3216	4963	4963	1713	1713	23407	565	23972			
Average (One Quarter) 25·47 per night.			13·18 per night.		8·81 per night.		13·60 per night.		4·69 per night.		65·67 per night.				
1903	9917	Males	1567	Females	Total	..	11484	1909	17652	Males	840	Females	Total	..	18492
1904	12041	"	866	"	"	..	12907	1910	19093	"	520	"	"	..	19613
1905	14828	"	636	"	"	..	15464	1911	17648	"	0	"	"	..	17648
1906	12877	"	144	"	"	..	13021	1912	19497	"	301	"	"	..	19798
1907	12447	"	74	"	"	..	12521	1913	25998	"	856	"	"	..	27854
1908	16017	"	126	"	"	..	16143								

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The Tables in the report of the Medical Officer of Health have been compiled from the Registers which are kept as required by Section 131. At the end of the year there were 569 Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Domestic Workrooms on the Register, of which the following list shows the different occupations.

Occupation.	Factories, etc., where Motive Power is used.	Workshops.	Domestic Workshops.	Outworkers.	Workplaces.
Dressmakers, Milliners, Mantle Makers, Costumers etc.	1	91	34	20	..
Tailors .....	..	36	39	78	..
Boot and Shoe Repairs ..	1	25	29	64	..
Builders, Carpenters, and Cabinet Makers	7	25	3	..	3
Printers	17	..	..	..	..
Motor and Cycle Repairs, etc.	6	22	1	..	..
Marine Stores .....	..	..	..	..	3
Painters .....	..	11	..	..	..
Plumbers .....	..	27	..	2	..
Upholsterers .....	..	6	3	19	..
Coach Builders and Wheelwrights	1	9	..	..	..
Chaff Cutters	1	..	..	..	2
Sugar Boilers .....	..	1	..	..	..
Cab Yards .....	..	..	..	..	11
Laundries	5	3	..	..	..
Watch Makers .....	..	7	3	..	..
Organ Builders .....	..	1	..	..	..
Breweries	6	..	..	..	..
Shoeing Smiths .....	..	..	..	..	3
Electro Platers	1	1	..	..	..
Wood Turners	2	..	..	..	..
Bedding Manufacturers ..	1	..	..	..	..
Rope Makers .....	..	..	..	..	1
Engineers	14	2	..	..	..
Masons' Yards .....	..	1	..	..	3
Sale Yards .....	..	..	..	..	1
Coal Yards .....	..	..	..	..	3
Dyers	1	..	2	..	..
Gunsmiths .....	..	2	..	..	..
Aerated Water Manufacturers	1	..	..	..	..
Picture Frame Makers ..	..	1	..	..	..
Millers	2	..	..	..	..

Factories and Workshops Table.—*Continued.*

Occupation.	Factories, etc., where Motive Power is used.	Workshops.	Domestic Workshops.	Outworkers.	Workplaces.
Bottlers .....	..	1	..	..	4
Wood Cutters	3	1	1	..	1
Bat Works ..	1	..	..	..	..
Engravers .....	..	..	1	..	..
Umbrella Makers .....	..	..	1	..	..
Timber Yards	3	..	..	..	..
Boat Builders .....	..	1	1	..	..
Saddlers .....	..	3	1	..	..
Bakehouses .....	..	59	..	..	..
Basket Makers .....	..	..	1	..	..
Fish Curing .....	..	..	..	..	1
China Rivetting .....	..	..	1	2	..
Photographers .....	..	1	..	..	..
Chocolate Making	1	..	..	..	..
Totals....	75	337	121	183	36

HOME WORK.

Occupiers of Factories and Workshops are compelled to keep lists of the names and addresses of persons employed by them, to execute work at their own homes, and to forward copies of such lists to the Local Authority in February and August of each year. Prescribed forms of lists are forwarded to the various tradespeople who employ persons, so there is no excuse for the non-delivery of the lists.

69 notices were served on occupiers of Factories and Workshops as to keeping and sending of lists.

57 lists, containing the names of 183 persons, have been received. These lists are of great assistance, as when a case of infectious disease is notified, a glance down the list will show at once whether any home work is being done at the infected house.

Each outworker's residence was visited, and in 6 cases the cleansing of the rooms used as workrooms were ordered and carried out.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 58 Bakehouses on the Register, of which 5 are at present unoccupied. None of these come under the definition of "Underground Bakehouses," as laid down by Sect. 101, of the Factory Act.

5 Bakehouses have been closed since the troops have been billeted in private houses. The bakers state that the allowance of bread brought into the billets by the men is shared by the occupiers of the houses, who give the men other kinds of food in exchange, and thus a very much less quantity of bread is purchased from the baker.

In 5 instances on inspection the periodical limewashing was found to be overdue, and on the necessary order being served this was remedied.

No other cause of complaint was found on the many visits of inspection that were made.

REPORTS OF H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.

During the year 3 notices of contravention of the Act, and remediable under the Public Health Act, viz., not separate w.c. accommodation for mixed sexes, and limewashing overdue, were received from H.M. Inspector, and the necessary action taken to remedy it. In addition to the above, 18 notices of occupation of workshops were received from him, and same were entered in the Register.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, again I beg to thank you for your continued valuable support in the carrying out of my duties, and for your kind consideration in all matters I have brought before you.

To the Town Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health, the Borough Engineer, the Food Inspector, Assistant Inspector, and other Officials, I also tender my thanks for their valuable co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED WALLACE MERRIE,

Sanitary Inspector.